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SC-11848b: Colonel Marcus M. Spiegel Collection, 1861-1865.

W. Slocum to Caroline Spiegel, 1864 May 23.

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American Jewish Archives website.

Morgansau L A
May 23rd 1864

Mrs

M M Spitzer

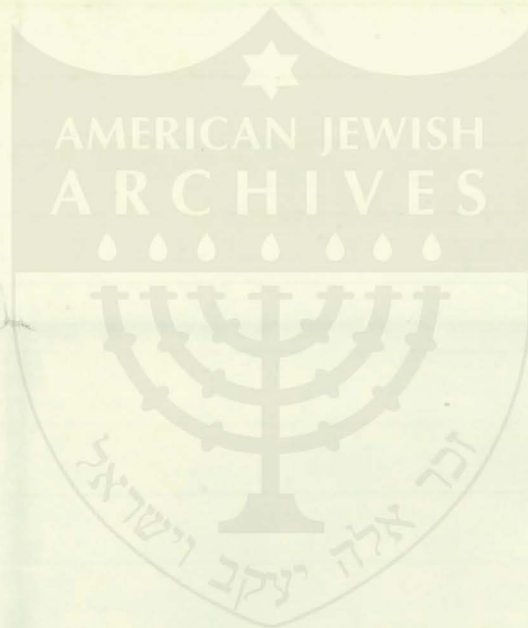
It becomes my painful and
unpleasant duty to inform you of the death
of your dear husband, the late M M Spitzer
Col of the 120th U. S. I. We left with Brigadier
Roger L. A. on the 30th day of April for
Alexandria on the steamer port City Bell
with 397 men of the 120th beside several
detachments of other Regiments. At Port
Hudson our numbers were increased to
near 500 men. We arrived at the mouth
of Red river on the first of May, and rem-
ained there until the morning of the 2nd when
started up Red river to join the troops
of the 13th Corp. We met with no inter-
uption until after we past Fort Osborn
some 16 miles. when suddenly all on board
was apprised of an attack on the boat by
the enemy. A three gun battery was opened
upon us. The first shell passed lengthwise
through the cabin. The second went through
the pilot house killing the pilot. The 4th
cut the steam pipe and entered the boiler
which disabled the boat and we left at the
mercy of the enemy. There was our Brigade

of infantry and three pieces of artillery, placing
upon us. The boat was completely riddled.
The Col was on the Cabin deck with a portion
of the Regiment. At the time he was shot I
was here on deck. We kept up a constant fire
on the enemy. I went below to see the Col, and
found him mortally wounded, by a ball
having struck him in the lower part of the
bowels passing through his body. I spoke to
him of his wound. He replied, that he was
dying, and wished me to write his last words
was "Oh my poor wife and children God
bless them" Col Ward of the 2nd Ills Cav lay near
by him shot through the head. Our loss in
killed wounded and missing is 216 - Joseph
Spencer was on board and is a private
so was his partner. Eight days afterwards
I went down the river with the line of
skiffs to look after the remains of
our dead at the boat and all left on board
fell into the hands of the enemy. I found
the place when the Col was killed, and
had the earth removed, and body taken
up. It was easily recognized. He was buried
with others near the spot where the boat
was captured, on the banks of the river
under a large live oak tree. I will write
you more fully as soon as I receive sufficient
-ly. We have been cut off by the enemy for 20 days

and hard pressed. There ^{are} many things connected
with this ~~same~~ affair, that will be of interest to
you. Which I will communicate as soon as
I get into your

Yours in sympathy

W. Freeman



Morgansa [Morganza], La

May 23rd 1864

Mrs. M. M. Spiegel,

It becomes my painful and melancholy duty to inform you of the death of your dear husband the late M. M. Spiegel Col of the 120th O.V.I. We left ~~with~~ Baton Rouge, LA on the 30th day of April for Alexandria in the steamboat City Belle with 397 men of the 120th besides several detachments of other regiments. At Port Hudson our numbers were increased to near 500 men. We arrived at the mouth of Red river on the first of May and remained there until the morning of the 2nd when [we] started up Red river to join the troops of the 13th Corps. We met with no interruption until after in port _____ some 16 miles when suddenly all on board was apprised of an attack on the boat by the enemy. As their gun battery was opened upon us the first shells passed lengthwise through the cabin, the second went through the pilot house killing the pilot, the 4th cut the steam pipe and entered the boiler which disabled the boat and us left at the mercy of the enemy. Then was our brigade of infantry and their pieces of artillery playing upon us. The boat was completely riddled the Col was on the cabin deck with a portion of the Regiment. At the time he was shot I was _____ deck. We kept up a constant fire on the enemy. I went below to see the Col and found him mortally wounded by a ball having struck him in the lower part of the

bowels passing through his body. I spoke to him of his wound. He replied that he was dying and wished me to write his last words were "Oh, my good wife and children. God bless them." Col Mudd of the 2nd Ills [Illinois] Cav[alry] lay nearby him was shot through the head. Our loss in killed wounded and missing is 216. Joseph Spiegel was on board and is a prisoner so was his partner. Eight days afterward I went down the river with the line of skirmishers to look after the remains of our dead as the boat and all left on board fell into the hands of the enemy. I found the place where the Col was buried and had the earth removed and body taken up. It was easily recognized. He was buried with others near the spot where the boat was captured on the banks of the river under a large live oak tree. I will write you more fully as soon as I recover sufficiently. We have been cut off by the enemy for 20 days and hard pressed. There are many things connected with this sad affair, that will be of interest to you. Which I will communicate as soon as we get into quarters.

Yours in sympathy,

W. Slocum