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

W. Slocum to Caroline Spiegel, 1864 May 23.

For more information on this collection, please see the finding aid on the American Jewish Archives website.

if enfantize and then person if artery personing Morgansa La may 235/864 of the president to the search was a lost of ever formounded. In less sight and of se It becomes my parifice and mulancolly duty to inform you of the death of your dear Husbana, the late he m Spenger bol of the 120 UVI he left with Bayen It og m La on the 3 och day of Cyens for alwandren on the steurner fort City Beer with 397 men of the 120" beside seseral detachment of other regiments. Let Part Anders our members our encreved in men soo men he armed at the month of Kird row on the first of truey and rem corred then senter the morning of the 2" When started up for run to four the troops of the 13" Corp. Me met with no enter aption unter after un pour Hort Corne Iron 16 miles. When Inddenly all in hourd was approved of an activate on the boat by the every a three sum battery was opener upm us the first shell passed lengthman through the Cabin the Secures went through the forest hours beening the preate, the 4" Cut the steem pipe and Entered the horiers which desables the boat and in left of the mercy of the Every, then was our Bry wer

of enfantry and then peres of artising playing upm ers the bout was complety tradition the Car ever outhe Caben duck with a portion of the regresser. at the term he was shot I evas herr our drets: Mr lapt up a constant fin on the Every I went below to Ser the lost, and frands hem mortally wounder by a hall having structe him in the lower part of the bours passing through his hody. I spoter too him of his roound, he replace that he was dung and wished un to with his last words mer the my poor surpreund children End berg there" led hund of the 2" Her law lay men by him show through the head. Our log en Killed avanuard and mujary is 2/6 - Joseph Sperger was on hour and is a prime to was his partiere. Ught days afternoon I went down the from with the lim Sterround to look after the remains of our dead he the boot and all lift on heard fell ento the haves of the Every I sound the place when the level was berrie, and hud the Earste remona, and bady troom up It was easily recognised. He was berns with others men the Spor when the hour ever cuptured on the tarte of the seen muder a lagre low oute tree I will with you more fully as soon as I recom sufficient - by Me han been cut up by the Every for 20 days

with this sale affair, that mis by menso in you. When I will commence to gentless to your as he get inte qually

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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