

## SC-11848a: Colonel Marcus M. Spiegel Collection, 1861-1864.

1862 December

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Tend Quarter (lef- eding) 12000 0.0 Hourd Steamer Fort May no off Par Osland A: 10 December 5/62 My dear dear Wife and Children It is pust non 10 a clock of the lang and & have only a fer minutes ago dismissed the Officer Dahool which by the Way is getting Very interesting and our Steamers have just landed for the night and the Officer of the day has reported the Prekets out throng the woods (a precaution necessary it these parts to prevent being Impired by Simillas and as & flept about 3 hours to day & thought best to, go to Work and give your or little history of our formany. In doing this of might as well till towat once that as far to demenies and Lambocafes and concerned O can Juy but lette, having yunt

but very little time on deek 112 left Cornelin Banach the 21 ch and Coring ton Those the 24th alt. and have ever finice with but Very hille & ception heed confined to the namon limits of a chamboot crowded with 475 living , mus' with all their Ethame of impere and foul air, Il of that number sield, twelve of the thirty one very field. you know that I never feel Very well while traveling Eicher on the Cars a Steamed and anothis long and tedious former & have mit on forged as much comfort as usual. The continuous moise of the Main boat Machinery, with the yells, the di portes, the Dongs, the cought the great ing and lover some moaning of the Goldier, the Ho Ehoh of the premand gay and ferring little laughs and acherwise unduced meniment of the Officers and the diarches which das port me quetty well, all there to gether have made me court frequently

that we were at Memphis. When we left lovington the Water was very low but a pine was 24 ; yested to come from Pittabury, which however dit not reach in untill after We nere ford days and during the for days Shell on moments Daushalls while thicking and one of those Sand handle our Captain who has been We thing hard all night - cause to the Cabin in the morning about SU. M ant of hommer an ale of this show from tid to Nent his path " on the many boys into our afe of being drall were laying on the floor in the Cabin, he came to my poont and formenced forcany and quinny about the d - " meas filling up the Cabin te & the was not going to by live like a day be . I publiced my Eyes and dit not feel very kind to him for so uncernionically Walling me, he files many of the bays gathered around and by their Countenance & personal, that

they expected me to day something not to kind to my friend the Captaint, I therefore told him, the bays in the Calin are dich bays and must lay in them mighto and if you do not litle it dan somy for it, and just let me canting your nend to come se Early again and making such and infernal muss to wise, if you do & think & shall find boy, any on board this boat , to third yest over board about as quick as any double qui all monenoci was Ever performed " and from the , that see loal " put give the word " & can de gestimes of the tays & believe the con-Cluded to let well enough alond and from that day to this de has never tried to interfere with my own domestic of Jains and brand the back , and I have to day no better find than old Captain Not Whitney of the Hord Wayne.

On our way here we stapped at matison, Evans Ville and Candleton Ond, the latter place has a very large Catton Pasting which however at present is warthing any at half time, we also stapped at Lowinill Ky at Care all and at Columbas by at an then latter places we have to report to the courty Vinerals at the first hend Payle the Davies formants of the three tent Juttle Smited me best him and & get quite farmiliar. I made the aquaintan of Caft David Herned Who fought & beat the Ribel Ram anhansas de was Wonnded form times , is anold Cuss & quite an original Charachter, is an amfull Democrat and Par drich as much Whiskey as most any other man, with getting beastly drunk " herides hind make the agriantance of many Guns boat fellow who have been in all the fights

and the mississipi , but they Espect Vickshing will heat their all and if I mistable not I think to be able to give your a disseription of that as and Gye Witness and participate We had form pears of heing andered offs first Columbins and talle the Cars but We are non fremitted to go an to memphis for which I am glad as that will give as an oppertunity to talle and Law trans Jourtation with as . All have with as 16 bit mule learney and Mules in good order and I two how ambulances, which makes quite a respectable transforstation Jorane Regiment if we will andy be permitted to keep it we will be as well piped an Equippo as most any Regt. That Ever toold the file you have frequently asked me what became of and Women , well the youngest one of the two vent home the aldest one the matron" is and bal Grench, Boat the left the Hugestal and takes of Coaking for some of the offices I do not know what they will de. The does not speal to me because I faid

that whence there is warman in the field the generally does not amount to much and ter hashand is not worth a d - ? for the pervice. We have two Women an boar of un boat one in Conger Company a This Steel and books for all the worth like Mary Lawrow and the atted as Mis Haggard in Braytons Company who Every body woond I wear her to be the fisher of This Heaver of Minintown if one dit not third that, that Sister was married a haid at the all firge ' They are however back of them I think very kind and good trome and are going to Cook, the many Lawsen losting one was very kind to me when & Vas sich and led it not been for the Edea that she lasted so very much little my als find I could have enjoyed the hitte danities & lea the cooked but as it was I wally ditart the gia had not for his discharge when I lipe but was promised it ty he has not god it yet will get it as I mean to with to the Cal & It Cal this Evening yet.

I this Eve per your dear letter from the 27 th with Hamlins & Herretter which good me much comfast thappiness ddit unt Thin's jettele conto mike as well I will with to ber & Hauslin when aget time at memphis, I have to get about 20 letters when dget to memphis oh but I will cat a dast. I hope that mother has reached you we this, Why don't Onche Joney write ? to is a pretty bay wounder dow somet the wond take for himself Scant the write a little in Every letter? Wish you would send me the limes dayly after you get through with. down here they Day it is the best Paper in American. Oant michtfarah Henry & Okener mile I wanto like lots of letters & much non show to only hope that I will cland a clana of mailing this letter to monor, With my love to Hamlin, Lizzie hovey Hatte & all the ust & remain your Ever the storing Marcus

Head Quarters (left wing) 120<sup>th</sup> O.V. Board Steamer Fort Wayne off Port

Island No. 10, December 5/62

My dear dear Wife and Children!

It is just now 10 o clock in the Evening and I have only a few minutes ago dismissed the Officers School which by the way is getting very interesting and our Steamers have just landed for the night and the Officer of the day has reported the Pickets out throug the woods (a precaution necessary in these parts to prevent being surprised by "Guirillas") and as I slept about 3 hours to day I thought best to go to work and give you a little history of our journey.

In doing this I might as well tell you at once that as far as Sceneries and Landscapes are concerned I can say but little, having spent but very little time on deck.

We left Covington Barracks the 21st and Covington Shore the 24th ult and have ever since with but very little exception been confined to the narrow limits of a Steamboat crowded with 475 living "men" with all their "exhume" of impure and foul air, 31 of that number sick, twelve of the thirty one very sick. You know that I never feel very well while traveling either on the Cars or Steamer and on this long and tedious journey I have not enjoyed as much comfort as usual. The continuous noise of the Steamboat Machinery, with the yells, the disputes, the songs, the coughs & the gruntings, and even some moaning of the Soldiers, the Ho Eh oh of the crew and gay and festive little laughs and otherwise produced merriment of the Officers and the diarehea which has run me pretty well, all these together have made me wish frequently that we were at Memphis.

When we left Covington the Water was very low but a rise was expected to come from Pittsburg, which however dit not reach us untill after we were four days out during the four days stuck on numerous Sandbanks while sticking on one of those Sandbanks our Captain who has been working hard all night came to the Cabin in the morning about 5 A.M. out of humor on a/c of this slow progress in getting his "vessel" of the ground, tried to "vent his rath" on the many boys who on a/c of being sick were laying on the floor in the Cabin, he came to my room and commenced swearing and cussing about the d-n men filling up the Cabin &c & he was not going to live like a hog &c. I rubbed my Eyes and did not feel very kind to him for so unceremoniously waking me, besides many of the boys gathered around and by their countenance I perceived, that they expected me to say something, not to kind to my

friend the Captain. I therefore told him, "the boys in the Cabin are sick boys and must lay in there nights and if you do not like it I am sorry for it, and just let me caution you, never to come so early again and making such an infernal mess & noise, if you do I think I shall find boys enough on board this boat, to throw you over board about as quick as any double quick maneuver was ever performed" and from the "thats so Col," "Just give the word" &c and the gestures of the boys, I believe he concluded to let well enough alone and from that day to this he has never tried to interfere with my own domestic affairs on board the boat, and I have to day no better friend than old Captain Bob Whitney of the Fort Wayne.

On our way here we stopped at Matison [Madison], Evansville and Candletown [Cannelton], Ind., the latter place has a very large Cotton Factory which however at present is working only at half time, we also stopped at Louisville Ky at Cairo Ill and at Columbus Ky at all these latter places we have to report to the comdg Generals at the first Genl Boyle the next Genl Tuttle at the latter Genl Davies commands of the three Genl Tuttle suited me best him and I got quite familiar. I made the acquaintance of Capt David Heiner who fought & beat the Rebel Ram Arkansas he was wounded seven times, is an old cuss & quite an original Character, is an awfull Democrat and can drink as much Whiskey as most any other man, without getting "beastly drunk" besides him I made the acquaintance of many Gunboat fellows who have been in all the fights on the Mississippi, but they expect Vicksburg will beat them all and if I mistake not, I think to be able to give you a discription of that as an Eye Witness and participater.

We had some fears of being ordered off from Columbus and take the Cars but we are now permitted to go on to Memphis for which I am glad as that will give us an opportunity to take our Land transportation with us. We have with us 16 Six mule teams, our Mules in good order, and 2 two horse Ambulances, which makes quite a respectable transportation for one Regiment if we will only be permitted to keep it we will be as well fixed and equipped as most any Regt. that ever took the field.

You have frequently asked me what became of our women, well the youngest one of the two went home the oldest one the "matron" is on Col French's Boat, she left the Hospital and talks of cooking for some of the officers I do not know what they will do. She does not speak to me because I said that wherever there is woman in the field she generally does not amount to much and her husband is not worth a d-n for the service. We have two Women on board of our boat one in Conyers Company, a Mrs. Steel and looks for all the world like Mary Lawson, and the other a Mrs. Haggard in Braytons Company who everybody would swear her to be the sister of Mrs. Weaver of Uniontown if one dit not know that, that sister was married & lived at the "old forge". They are however both of them I think very kind and good women and are going to cook, the Mary Lawson looking one was very kind to me when I was sick and had it not been for the Idea that she looked so very much like my old friend I could have enjoyed the little dainties & Tea she cooked but as it was I really dit not. Ezra had not had his discharge when I left but was promised it & if he has not got it yet will get it as I mean to write to the Col & Lt Col this evening yet.

I this eve recd your dear letter from the 27<sup>th</sup> with Hamlin's & Henriette which gave me such comfort & happiness. I dit not think Yettche could write as well I will write to her & Hamlin when I get time at Memphis. I hope to get about 20 letters when I get time to Memphis oh but I will cut a dash. I hope that mother has reached you ere this. Why dont Oncle Josey write? he is a pretty boy wonder how much he would take for himself? Can't he write a little in every letter? Wish you wound send me the "Times" dayly after you get through with down here they say it is the best Paper in America. Cant Mich & Sarah Henry & Theresa write I would like lots of letters. I must now stop to only hope that I will have a chance of mailing this letter to morrow.

With my love to Hamlin, Lizzie Mosey & Hattie & all the rest I remain

Your ever true & loving

Marcus



hut us and but the stated in the man and the Id Dates 120 . ... The Decreptor Hel Dates 120 1. 1.S. Camp Dear Huind year Mother ! Tetter english offerman I found here Moring the 1st after amining on the you for many ask then why not answer it immedials " anne ' for the fait time since I have been of the Herrice & have been tallen and the the diareles on Board the Boat & dit not get entirely over it untill a gendays ago it nin me down in fleck offense 20much to that I dit not ged like writing and with all this I dit not day to report unfit for duty on all of des Emballing for the fait time with a new and greed Key? when one does not wish to have it appear Juen requires the emited conflainshing and unceasing Efforts of Every officer in it that had any Expensed, more Es. pecially when there are but two who can boast of any thing a that have . Disembarkation Joining the anjointest Waguns, unloading thinks thouses, Stores & Intristance, mur and Officer

fit cruything a order so as to more through a City like memphi after a weary forming of two Weeks an foremment Transports our two Rivers in a low stage of later and Debeting Camp, lay it out pitch Tent, see to the deleting cleaning, Wood, Watering and feeding a Regt of 950 men talles labor and when boundar to do a full their of that such Weall and Weary at that is truly not a tuffing affair and a little Test is like a forcine find. And was my fit get I shod it and and happy to anonnec to your my line and turty queud I am to day tale and hearty and only a little the worse in flesh pay 12 lbs. We were two weeks and one day coming here, I commanded the left thing of the Regiment Port Wayne a lacquand Macion Thansport Manu and Vol Breach Commanded the right Ung and It;", Delater Wave " to boat O Dame dize. Thoughboth were Woals of good tige get when baded with 475 men Males, House Mayres VC, they evere well crowded. Our progress on the Kines was slow and

tedious, oning to the low water, we had to lay by kights and ditnot travel overly glast in day time When about De miles above Cain are the Steamer Vilder Wave par a rock and Samp, We toold off men & shoeld and landed them an the beach proceeded to Cain where I proceed another boat the f I Prinkle and apour these boals Without any further accidents We awined Dapely at Memphis the yet met. Memphis is a beauty trading yehnding domen and Contrabands, the Cotton bay are attracts many men here and efter lacy fortimes are made in a short time, Men from It Louis. Cincinatti Ballimon de ace here with large that so y Goods A mathing money fact. We were assigned to bead smith Din. but when at & anived here, Sent Morgan of this of Cumberland Gap notoinety) arcestamed that bol Breach was Commanding the Difficient Regt and Out French Laring been a heartmant

under him in Mexico, insister afran having in bampened to this Verefa to which your Sherman consented We are show in Marguno Division and yesterday in the averganization the Joneral gave as the position of fadrance Mujade. We had too Knigade Fills and & and from to suy and Regt dan splendit and outamy feel good since & done nearly all the Balallin Dulling and Regt had. I find myslif sig will there are among and this Officer and have allundy many good queuds, the note aminal presented to my me in Chicago and beauty full rigging & mounting from your are alleading attention and I am as well morented as any Officer in this danny no finnal Excepted. On Prizade Courists of 1200 0.1. 118 " Hell by ha and 22mt they and this gade Command is bal Theldow of the 42 and the garfields Regiment f a very analle fintheman represented as a fini Officer, he called an me this morning

11-19 Contan Bound Jud With the of the devict your lite and we had a very pleasant tall hereral Morgan is from At bereast heart be then to good man and feels Very nuch enter rested us our good opinion of him to be comes to near our neighborhood bfund ming milet We are ordered to be ready for land or Water by the very latest at the 17 dist I days get Cutting is down in tuts strans portation which means I think an Espectition on Vielday will we are ready for it, and boys are then for a fight a formignelf & dout care if it comes and ready of not I shart make a Juss about it. I Tuhinan is well de sheps in my tent every night, he is doing duty regular, makes a good Soldier, but he will might faither he says, if get ing 12 finders " When the time comes & Hall manage to have him and of the fight I will fit it do as to dead here houndably to the rear an an Errant for me, that is, if really any fight appears Eminient if any prospection I will let hand wet a little he es a very good bay

the relation between an and my fellow officers is most happy bal Hunch is a Sentlema of the first Water, a time and tronty freed and a splendit officer Major Beellong a very clean fellow, the Adjutand gay and happy I the Duaiter Master icho is allready formated to thigade to Met Officed are Tying with Each atte to please me and the enen I could not will any better. I would very much When to see Esther and her little daughter . give them my love . I am & peaking to come to Chir Allay if I live and then I will see you all and if we want have a gay tune it's became er & dont them how. Time very love to Oncle & aunt, to your dear Wife and Children Josepe to Wife and Children Mart Wife and Children tell Mary that the time is still coming closes when according to my wath I daw play date again then I will talle him . They love to denow thefe and Children allis Michael Wife and Child Onche Hahn Mipe Jette Herman bel Haman to write My respects to In Junter and tell him his letter made me feel like frankfurt ajan + by love to all toes the familiarcas

[upside down at top of page]

Col. French & Major Beekman send their best regards Hd. Qtrs. 120<sup>th</sup> O.V.I Camp

Oliver near Memphis Ten. Dec. 14/1862

Dear Friend yea Brother!

Your very kind and congenial Letter english & German I found here Monday the 8th after arriving on the 7th. You may ask then why not answer it immediately? Answer: for the first time since I have been in the service I have been taken with the diarehea on Board the Boat & dit not get entirely over it untill a few days ago it run me down in flesh & spirit so much so that I dit not feel like writing and with all this I dit not dare to report unfit for duty on ac of disembarking for the first time with a new and green Regt, when one does not wish to have it appear green requires the united unflinching and unceasing efforts of every officer in it that had any experience, more especially when there are but two who can boast of any thing in that line. Disembarkation, joining the unjointed Wagons, unloading Mules & horses, Stores & Subsistance, Men and Officers fix everything in order so as to move through a City like Memphis. After a weary journey of two weeks on Government Transports over two Rivers in a low stage of water and selecting Camp, lay it out pitch Tent, see to the ditching cleaning, wood, watering and feeding a Regt

of 950 men takes labor and when one has to do a full share of that sick weak and weary at that [it] is truly not a trifling affair and a little rest is like a precious Jewel. Such was my fix, yet I stood it and am happy to announce to you my true and trusty friend I am to day hale and hearty and only a little the worse in flesh say 12 lbs.

We were two weeks and one day coming here, I commanded the left wing of the Regiment on the Fort Wayne a large and spacious Transport Steamer and Col French commanded the right wing on St. "Silver Wave", a boat of same Size. Though both were boats of good size, yet when loaded with 475 men Mules, Horses Wagons &c, they were well crowded. Our progress on the River was slow and tedious, owing to the low water, we had to lay by nights and dit not travel overly fast in day time. When about 30 miles above Cairo the Steamer Silver Wave ran a rock and sank, we took off men & stock and landed them on the beach proceeded to Cairo where I procured another boat the J. L. Prinkle and upon these boats without any further accidents we arrived safely at Memphis the 7th inst. Memphis is a beautyfull City, full at the present of trading Yehudim [Jews], Women and Contrabands [escaped slaves], the Cotton buying attracts many men here and often large fortunes are made in a short time. Men from St. Louis, Cincinatti, Baltimore &c are here with large Stocks of

Goods & making money fast.

We were assigned to Genl Smith's Div but when we arrived here, Genl Morgan of Ohio (of Cumberland Gap notoriety) ascertained that Col French was commanding the Regt and Col French having been a Lieutenant under him in Mexico, insisted upon having us transferred to his Division, to which Genl Sherman consented. We are now in Morgans Division and yesterday in the reorganization the General gave us the position of honor as the 1st Regt in the 1st (advance) Brigade. We had two Brigade Drills and I am proud to say our Regt done splendit and certainly feel good since I done nearly all the Battalion Drilling our Regt had.

I find myself very well known among our Ohio Officers and have allready many good friends, the noble animal presented to me in Chicago and beautyfull rigging & mounting from you are attracting attention and I am as well mounted as any officer in this Army no General excepted. Our Brigade consists of 120<sup>th</sup> O.V. 118<sup>th</sup> Ill 69<sup>th</sup> Ind, and 22<sup>nd</sup> Ky our Brigade Commander is Col Sheldon of the 42<sup>nd</sup> Ohio (Garfield's Regiment), a very amiable Gentleman & represented as a fine officer, he called on me this morning and we had a very pleasant talk. General Morgan is from Mt Vernon Knox Co Ohio a good man and feels very much interested in our good opinion of him as he comes so near our neighborhood. [German translates to "It doesn't hurt"] We are ordered to be ready for land or water by the very latest at the 17<sup>th</sup> inst 3 days yet cutting us down in tents & transportation which means I think an expedition on Vicksburg well, we are ready for it, our boys are keen for a fight as for myself I don't care if it comes I am ready if not I shant make a fuss about it. A. Ruhman is well he sleeps in my tent every night, he is doing duty regular, makes a good soldier, but he will [German translates to "not fight"] he says [German translates to "I don't mind being a soldier but I don't want to fight"] When the time comes I shall manage to have him out of the fight. I will fix it so as to send him honorably to the rear on an errant for me, that is, if really any fight appears Emminent if only prospective I will let him swet a little he is a very good boy.

The relation between me and my fellow officers is most happy. Col French is a Gentleman of the first Water, a true and trusty friend and a splendit officer. Major Beekman a very clever fellow, the Adjutand gay and happy & the Quarter Master who is allready promoted to Brigade Q. Mstr like a Brother to me. All the Company officers are vying with each other to please me and the men I could not wish any better. I would very much like to see Esther and her little daughter give them my love. I am expecting to come to Ohio in May if I live and then will see you all and if we wont have a gay time its because we dont know how. Give my love to Oncle & Aunt, to your dear Wife and Children Joseph & his Wife and Children Marx Wife and Children tell Marx that the time is still coming closer when according to my oath I dare play Solo again & then I will take him. My love to Simon Wife and Children. Also Michael Wife and Children Oncle Hahn Wife Yette & Herman tell Herman to write. My respects to Mr. Jesselsom and tell him his letter made me feel like Frankfort again & my love to all.

Ever Ever Your

Marcus

[upside down at the top of page 5] Write soon direct your letter 120<sup>th</sup> O.V.I. Memphis Ten Morgans Division To follow the Regt

[side of page 6]

My love to Geo Thank Rabos & Balendes & old Muhler I saw Jerry

Head Quarters 120ch 011 barris Oliver madel Complies The Dec 15,62 My dear boost elife + Childrend! I can not day that it is with a chapall heart that I write to right not but what I am bodily well Enough, for I am agains as hearty as I seed was, but Simply I can not hear anything from you the last letter I had was dated Nor 23 and here we have Dec 15 to day 22 days without any news that is to long all trigetted to make me feel tappy on but for a resteration of those little teles of Hambers going to tchool & Liques playing Mary donty Eating + Hatties glaying With her dands Agrooning big & I wonth be a happy happy bay, Here my dead wife I have nothing to far to mar my fappiness, a good position a good military reportation, Well monstert In a good Request, a good Bugade, in a favorite Divisionity with a fair prospect of promotion & filenty of prends as a Joldeer what in the World do I hed Else to mall me happy, then a good

letter from my dear Wife arming me of the health of my dear and betrace ones at formen from Suffall of see a letter of Girly which den don you with all its contends I am ame you will way it alen a letter from mores Joseph -We belong now to General Morgan Division the 1d Brigade, and Brigade the 1ª is commanded by Cal Liet Sheldow the Endling 12 Commanded by Col Linday and the Id Brigade by Col DE Concy hearder this Fosters Battery also belongs to an Divission We are ordered to Emboult by the 17th So is also your all funct & your Margan Sunth Quinter in all about 25000 num sfirm all reports and appearances We will go to Viellaburg. We have the advance in am (thougans) División and who kyrows hat what we may be the fortunate party to replant the gist Union bolow upon the Hoch of Vicksbing I trust it may be

and I hope soon to be able to give you a history of another Efectition, in my opinion the will art the a fight there, & think the Kibels are so stick literated that they will Evac note Vielding au ar get there . I find many faindy like it very much. The weaks is wand falls are mething Garden & the toeast trees are in blosson , for two days we had the angullest warm sains Altomas you Ever tar or heard That wanted fly away wich we. I have written you mak along letter last time that I will not tere you unch longer they love to all Even your time Horns Has mother husband who is all as returned How is and ity about you all the? Dit Reese maran Ever get the money I send thin 5

Brother Joseph! I want you to thep your siff in readiness to come down Seve shorty I think I see a big sight to malle horney Enough here to as to quit the service and an much unstallen 1 Merce in a few days when some of it Eva Jims the the angle of an and seen The second se ton I have to ever them you sured I will not the part and the write have been the all in the write the second of the 127 Saman I touch though to.

Head Quarters 120th O.V.I. Camp

Oliver near Memphis Ten., Dec 15/62

My dear Good Wife & Children!

I can not say that it is with a cheerfull heart that I write to night not but what I am bodily well enough, for I am again as hearty as I ever was, but simply I can not hear anything from you the last letter I had was dated Nov 23 and here we have Dec 15 to day 22 days without any news that is to long alltogether to make me feel happy; oh but for a reiteration of those little takes of Hamlins going to School & Lizzies playing Mosey hearty eating & Hatties playing with her hands & growing big & I would be a happy happy boy.

Here my dear wife I have nothing so far to mar my happiness, a good position a good military reputation, well mounted in a good Regiment, a good Brigade, in a favorite Divission, with a fair prospect of promotion & plenty of friends as a Soldier what in the World do I need else to make me happy, than a good letter from my dear Wife assuring me of the health of my dear and beloved ones at home from Suffolk I recd a letter of Girty which I enclose you with all its contents. I am sure you will enjoy it, also a letter from Moses Joseph.

We belong now to General Morgan Divission the 1<sup>st</sup> Brigade, our Brigade the 1<sup>st</sup> is commanded by Col L. A Sheldon the 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade is commanded by Col Linday and the 3<sup>rd</sup> Brigade by Col De Courey besides this Fosters Battery also belongs to our Divission. We are ordered to embark by the 17<sup>th</sup> so is also Genls A.J. Smith & Genl Morgan Smith Division in all about 25000 men & from all reports and appearances we will go to Vicksburg. We have the advance in our (Morgans) Divission and who knows but what we may be the fortunate party to replant the first Union colors upon the Forts of Vicksburg I trust it may be so, and I hope soon to be able to give you a history of another expedition, in my opinion there will not be a fight there, I think the Rebels are so situated that they will evacuate Vicksburg ere we get there. I find many friends here among the Ohio troops & like it very much. The weather is warm folks are making Garden & the locust trees are in blossom, for two days we had the awfullest warm rains & storms you ever saw or heard of. I feared last night my tent would fly away with me. I have written you such a long letter last time that I will not tire My love to all you much longer.

> Ever your true & loving husband who is all in anxiety about you all Marcus

Has mother returned? Dit Reese ever get the money I sent him?

Brother Joseph!

I want you to keep yourself in readiness to come down here shortly I think I see a big sight to make money enough here so as to quit the service or I am much mistaken

More in a few days when sure of it

Ever yours

Marcus



Thad Anna 120th Ol.S. Camp Oliver new Memphis Sea Dec 19/62 My dear dear the of put retermed and my figurent from the Brigade Did Journal a beautyfull level force of of days, the sumayo furt warn Europe to make one get comfortable without Even a Coat on and in short the golt like, the tropical clime was put the clime for and to be happy. Everyching sent off do pleasantly any be jo gregond To beautyfull, God French coho is a ring Round to me has non goothe last three days given me the clance to table one the Regiment, an openting for which I would not talk a great deal fund the fact that I can take my bays sight aring Sorte all pagments among them the bully 16 the Ohir, who distled god the last 15 months under the ficat

Englial Drillmaster Cal DE Concey and my boys day, "with bal Spriget to did a de dont card a d - a gad any of thend, and really & don't, my bays an doing hally and & thirth when month and Buglist hayrow" and Everybarry days Charley " is full blooded, I am when Everything wort to mice I beld the Adjutand the only and who assisted me to day an diilly non if I can find a letter from home when we retend and Juil all dell, I ghad be gay and hap In and as Expected do I familit your sweet good letter of the 1.4 the was waited for me, after interval of 21 days, the one last before that was dated the 23. all thangt fun letter was not quite as Charful as many a and that I have received firm your yet it was you out and and the care, the love, the uncasines, the Scolder, the Comporter, the haldaellis and last hat least, the reasonance that I have a wormed ashe is best, thematest and most loving of all even and him ag Jud bless your, Non to your questions. When at Carin & word gladly lave come hourd but could

not, elichoat mining the with of being left behind and that I dit mot daw to will as & was in amand of the life Ung of the May -. Mon it came that it had the diawak Contonly Explain by the fact that I and a great Mater climiter and not being used to the Mover Water & had to get used to it. It's to my state of health non a am better the Eace, ged real well and can Eat like a Home the only touthe is that we have not got anything ving good and not a vary good Coost Even of we have Uniting . As for coming home befor & get whene ou precepary. your advise to guites Soldiening I know good do not meany as I never here had half he good a chance and I do really mean to nee to some distinction in this Compayne of la Jave my health and there is notedy in this Would who would feel fromledy O an Ephandy doing to Murr your all have Inffered wich had Cold as it is very Impleasant in the Winter and & are many with thear find around all wellafin tround as well allrays Lits to had on your , you must take the lest of card y minut
Manie dear morey now? tope he is better I there there was something evering eater I had to wait so long for a letter, for hay he must have suffered much, I am glad you give tim Codliner Oil, as it is the best thing a child can table non does de like to talle et ? Mattie és Commencing Early with the teeth she that he a gint Child, god bless the I am glad to hear Hamlin Liggie ace Good Children, & Hover they would be as you allways Day, they toold after me" "undestreed". I am happy to hand your an satisfiel, take things Eary and I do not want you to waith very hand goome I have band dont Want you to, get I think your dis a position hadman course to me her. gan you a shanding inditation to ga to the Lectures this winter and you had accepted little a good old friend, I want I'm to ga and also to the Heatre at hast anse a week so that cohen I Como home I tall want the merdents and you theatre thectures and the both of us about the children I think it as little as anche Josey can do to talle you to theatre Every

Lud theck Once a weet the ought to feel front to take a Suntemant bal leve and if the Can not afford it he Horns Quill Charfully refund, I want Elizabeth to So Uner in a while of the is a good gul and I know the is I want her to see something to a dope my dear mother has Ere this relat the will be a good deal of Company fine her my love and this the for me. I also ad a very Rived letter from Chapman to day he and the bays are well, but anjuly down an let low as you see out of the letter of Girly I send your .. Col Brench is as twee and Kind to me as any man camber to does not do the bast thing without committeeton, ip all Officers wents feel that every to Each atter the War wante doon be at an End. Major Heellingand in the Kindert o men the world his my by the of I wants let thind at least three times a day it allmost matter me diettay Shindy Durantes Master Dears is non Ofmade Le. Master I have no hetter fin in the Wald. You must not get taxed of my long long letters, when I cominge

I can beauchy quit. I could could and notices and Regiment myself Horn and that received since enc Came here in doing this I might them Ever appear a little an the hages docia Order and I would rather wait untill I see you but Suppose it to say ities anequeted as it as agreable. Unly One thing I monthay When Heneral Major Major Sen Dheman revened and inision Joneial Morgan David to Frenchan myself Sintlemen I theard more Come pliments and your Regiment to day than on any other in the Divisions and General Operman Daid before All this staff & Officers, this 120th Whave bet seen in the field in regard to appearance, drill and discipline. after several interruption of and there last might, my tent is as usual the place to come to ask questions advice Vortedon the dansequence in the Morning that & dif mitget my letter find last might and in all jurhabitish-

it will hand to be car shown Why? as Minal and as it used to be on the perinenta Dall ghory my Cumpayne that whenever and a little from your after I hand how for derenal days a guite a while, that the anival of Ind a litter is indicative of the tinching Will dappen. Do the Time! Though the had been Onlevel to baro on the 17 4 you the Embarcation of an Apedition for the Capters There the at dont hat with your letter came the Outer to more this morning and how while & write the Mother of Smithing tents Macking & human persally at This time & & alack I M wind as the continue any passer by that A hung day is Equelect Non my dear Wije as to my Joing to hicksting the Onter of Gile Morgan to & will discuster in a Weller which & commend & inter to finish and brand the heart to Henry Hundberrow but I mean

- simply la day, feeldary this hip will do me good and Jood will Come from it The Feart Comes Avon oace my head I must Close You Hengen the Childen Menumber that Can Engeged in an undertaking that is dad carpull will do hera ta clas the way than any thing Jut dian English and the second and second and and and and

Head Quarters 120<sup>th</sup> O.V.I. Camp Oliver near Memphis Ten. Dec 17/62

My dear dear Wife!

I just returned with my Regiment from the Brigade Drill Ground, a beautyfull level piece of ground and one of the most loveliest of days, the sunrays just warm enough to make one feel comfortable without even a Coat on and in short one felt like, the tropical clime was just the clime for one to be happy. Everything went off so pleasantly, my boys performed so beautyfull, Col French who is so very kind to me, has now for the last three days given me the chance to take out the Regiment, an opportunity for which I would not take a great deal, from the fact that I can take my boys right among 5 or 6 old Regiments among them the bully 16th Ohio, who drilled for the last 15 months under the great English Drillmaster Colonel De Courcy and my boys say, "with Col Spiegel to drill us we dont care a d-m for any of them" and really I don't, my boys are doing bully and I think when mounted on my "English Grayson" and everybody says "Charley" is full blooded, I am putting on "more than airs", well well when everything went so nice, I told the Adjutant (the only one who assisted me today on drill) now if I can find a letter from home when we return and find all well, I

shall be gay and happy, and as expected so I found it. Your sweet good letter of the 14th was waiting for me, after interval of 21 days, the one last before that was dated Nov 23.

Allthough your letter was not quite as cheerfull as many a one that I have received from you, yet it was you out and out the care, the love, the uneasiness, the scolder, the Comforter, the [illegible] and last but [not] least, the reassurance that I have a woman who is best, kindest and most loving of all women living. God bless you.

Now to your questions. When at Cairo I would gladly have come home but could not, without running the risk of being left behind and that I dit not dare to risk as I was in Command of the left Wing of the Regt. How it came that I had the diareah I can only explain by the fact that I am a great water drinker and not being used to the River Water I had to get used to it. As to my state of health now I am better than ever, feel real well and can eat like a Horse the only trouble is that we have not got anything very good and not a very good Cook even if we have anything. As for coming home before I get real sick I intend to do by all means whenever necessary. Your advice to quit soldiering I know you do not mean, as I never before had half so good a chance and I do really mean to rise to some distinction in this Campayne if God spares my health and there is nobody in this World who would feel prouder of it, than my own dear Wife.

I am extremely sorry to know you all have suffered with bad Colds as it is very unpleasant in the winter and I am uneasy untill I hear you announced all well again inasmuch as cold allways sits so hard on you. You must take the best of care of yourself. How is dear Mosey now? Hope he is better. I knew there was something wrong when I had to wait so long for a letter. Poor boy, he must have suffered much, I am glad you give him Codliver Oil, as it is the best thing a child can take how does he like to take it? Hattie is comencing early with her teeth she must be a fine child, God bless her.

I am glad to hear Hamlin & Lizzie are good Children, I knew they would be as you allways say, "they took after me" "umbeshreea" [knock on wood]. I am happy to learn you are satisfied, take things easy and I do not want you to work very hard of course. I know Sarah dont want you to, yet I know your disposition. Goodman wrote to me he gave you a standing invitation to go to the Lectures this winter and you had accepted like a good old friend. I want you to go and also to the Theatre at least once a week so that when I come home I talk war & its incidents and you Theatre & Lectures and then both of us about the children. I think it as little as Oncle Josey can do to take you to theatre every once a week; he ought to feel proud to take a Lieutenant Col's Wife and if he can not afford it he knows I will cheerfully refund. I want Elizabeth to go once in a while if she is a good girl and I know she is I want her to see something to. I hope my dear mother has ere this retd. She will be a good deal of company, give her my love and kiss her for me. I also had a very kind letter from Chapman to day he and the boys are well, but awfully down on Col Voris as you see out of the letter of Girty I send you.

Col French is as true and kind to me as any man can be, he does not do the least thing without consultation, if all Officers would feel that way to each other the War would soon be at an End. Major Beekman is the kindest of men he would kiss my big toe if I would let him at least three times a day it allmost makes me sick of him, Quarter Master Dean is now Brigade Q. Master I have no better friend in the World. You must not get tired of my long long letters, when I comence I can scarcely quit. I could write you allmost a quire of complimentary acts and notices our Regiment, myself & Horse and Col received since we came here in doing this I might however appear a little on the "bragerdocia Order" and I would rather wait untill I see you but suffice it to say it is as unexpected as it is agreable. Only one thing I must say when General Morgan & Major Genl Sherman reviewed our Divission, General Morgan said to French and myself "Gentlemen I heard more compliments on your Regiment to day than on any other in the Divission" and General Sherman said before all his staff & Officers "this 120<sup>th</sup> Regiment is the best new Regiment, I have yet seen in the field in regard to appearance, drill and discipline."

After several interruptions I quit there last night, my tent is as usual the place to come, to ask questions, advise & sit down the consequence is this morning that I dit not get my letter finished last night and in all probability it will have to be cut short. Why? As usual and as it used to be on the peninsula & all through my Campayne that whenever I get a letter from you after I had none for several days or quite a while, that the arrival of such a letter is indicative of something will happen. So this time.

Though we had been ordered to leave on the 17<sup>th</sup> for the Embarcation of an Expedition for the Capture of Vicksburg yet the 17<sup>th</sup> past & we thought perhaps we go & perhaps we dont but with your letter came the Order to move this morning and now while I write, the Bustle of striking tents packing & hurrah generally at this time 6 o clock A.M. would at once convince any passer by that a bussy day is expected. Now my dear Wife as to my going to Vicksburg, the Order of Genl Morgan &c, I will discribe in a letter which I comenced & intend to finish on board the boat to Henry Greenebaum, but I mean simply to say, feel easy this trip will do me good and good will come from it. The Tent comes down over my head I must close.

God bless you & the children. Remember that I am Engaged in an undertaking that if successfull will do more to close the War than any thing yet done.



Ever your Loving Marcus

Tead Amorten left Wing 120. 1115 of Board W.S.J. They West de 2 alerton the Mis Grie bet Helena Varine Law Lais Dec 21/1862 My dear Brother Mores of hat Stand from the Maricand Deek where I withread the get. The love geom the shore at Alina and Soper manted, the falling in the Colomman of the ablect, at Megniar Order of any. gay littly dreama they West no. 2 which with fine Camp? of the gallant 120th and fightably questered on the & tand the hown to compand. When & aniaed In my State Worm and Comenced tothe of my books & booked at my watch sight Pon to Early to go to sleep Jo & concluded to part in my Mippu and Enjey my hour beliven this and bea terne by alastay to you my the and tenty general, thereting that perhand this being denday Evening and ant of hussiness for might percebancel Selling in your happy family circle to

Goword talk about me and if he on thoughts might meet and Em brace Each other a comfort which We may purhaps be defined of, goad Atmi live to come, but let no timet In am hearing gather those you the best. abhile & write the boat Shaller and Guel but if we do not get a stella. for through and Ladies Cakin & thrill bing Winting may be with a little case it? Telligable, but if that little account should dapped it night make me packed nervous at opril my handdome thenograf Of have, if my meaning server menight in my last letter from memphin firen you a graphic discription of my situata which of & have told you at all Dam Satisfied that have said, so gad as Col. Angadier & Division General is poncerned & could not be petrated und any of them will go as far to please me as any superior Igeat it Jamo to be their constant studding to do something that I would like. Oal Arenel. is in commend of the right wing

and and Origadies with this staff me this afternoon while we lay Coaling accel & had to take pupped and amid hege driging & dansing folling and laughing we coliled away a merry time contill there hal from noncy through the and which Alcounded us that the & lag theje was learner to use were to gullow. and they they coafed me the hardest Juit to stay ora night foir my com mand in the mouning when for faling go galond, amon goo Band Safter malifage mour linker Magar fat and de ifin the first if, he and find find the wind his taget mining good of fit gabin mon me

as for this Department comment Say that I am not much impressed with its order, discipline, nos solding bearing of the Doldier, & am very to say an find many Regiments and of being able to pride the untres of being Soldiers in The quat selections came of the Union to the Canditation, Car back of heingto debouched sett of inframe ?? many of them might be termed a fer feetly lawless dett of which thepes May had what will become of inch men after the War is over, the fora Mc blellan in Every DEplantment chat-Could go an emidistuckbed by a jealous set of abolitomests and while de would from End the was we could after it is over boast of claring had a civilized mode of warface. Sualing of McCellan perminds me of The falls that the last new we had was that 10 mins edes was agoing to have a Justand Samchon & do not Hum why , but throwing as I think & do-That part of the turny & and Ever Ince appehensing & and all most

Jud Heet affeared to Jury it, but it farm reaso to me that Bunnsides as any ather for a hipped for the Man and May be you will laugh at me, but thous I think I have sufficient hurrledge that Me blettan is the any men for that Uning & be this Was is ade I think the whole Country will have to attrick of all bil and motignant opraition of a palano the view deat who I wally thill is an hower man of let arme. Enough of This dail quetine thet as hope Bunneder maybe Incertable a may be this have driven the Metello find the gappetrameth & Marshanie It way atter and may be This have frahmmend be made a good General under Me Collan Mand Money your month allos me to und a little to night as I am all alone in the Ladies Cabin S hothing but the regular fruffs of

of the Steam out of the Juje the ugular writing up and down block ford of the Machinery of the brat is all I chance ful Company Officer then are in the amo of monthis & del litte letting my thought and an they could the fooling france will be overloated The way they may be the last I were will there an appending to send to your, I think and your they may not, but the fortimes Was an as of the outside Word Muy uncertain any a little more to and let us do for pray and timet that had in his infinite Mercy may aske has often before pretet 2, I fand leally much to live for hit I mean to do my duty and Sife will be any beaufit and as 2 fistance the in Eucling this long quel aufortunade hughe in faor I will gladly give it. Of my dear Mono it abut do your boal

your to see a fleet of once poor Versely beredes the sumboards and the faction of Waters. The Veryels Gilled dithe Unele Clamstage gay happy and cheerfull, accounty to mich danged and de hattle for the good ald Flag. On Juit you the way of have not yet lifted by and be and Driverin Simial which will Epland chelle 1 by the heading you will see aler 11 belong they leading gow will We mean to do. and Owill and Jag that the Both your humble divant mean to do their full Than if we get a chance, it will he doubt be got throng walt the Expedition Consister of about 40000 hand under Secretal Theman fa Birther to Qualar John Herman + also teal Therman of manquill and a gleet of unboals in Comman feel adminal Porter, & think that gove should take helding

and dear the Massimpe Maine to Men Orleans and I thenit they will. about an hour before I left Memphis I made The aghantance of a Von of Lack Hounshind a bother to the one that manuel, Cherley non Lunderster and also Charley Schloss they as weed a brother in law to Ester they as well as myself felt work at a sorry that we dit not much byou . We met ander dingular Circumstances. all of min Lank ind Good fatter forgender if and liter fant viniaid yahinda und frind Frankan pro la min all maint francis Find unfor tormer pugle of gut tifables" ind unmantlig dir time for appretter yahr Pfetteb geter fi bringer, war Bornor tete if fingle one more helpen Willing affan fabar kounted, in grow might je from Lery malifes filight boarding

the 12 to the second in the second for much Jungle of if no by balled Channelling and alfor furthe min al for yalle Clarmetel gliftigings friend mit between to all if ipid mining Mannan manutes pagto a no de hiles golt in Oge monthalli Whill non Ochampin and Secut Col if man proprint - Fand dand bull and de to in Pop non load Harridan of , Carl Schlow ift napprompt for high high min high of a the Hand grand grin abfafran yo min mylight any intering the fit gave Just and the dismal of clauger abunded I want for and see what it meant in a show the

Supposed ymillas in the Woods on Shart 5 the whole fleet unchoud it is awfull dailly, I do not believe we will marke any demonstrations to night, the I think they can attend to any this with this interruption to ating late to mist bring hug bring Episte to a above Mon Mores at me tell you write often the not wait for me you many times weeks may passin a Campayne like this that I may not have a chance to write tot undisscripable happiness to leave from yand hay more than Brother. Fine my love to your dear Wife thays. to Will Fander Esther + Child. Mart Manily, Michael Hamily Doseph Mands Imin family & all the fuends dout flight Auturan frank mobling Stolender & Rabas & more Epically my old find the thise and tell fin what avillian Afriget done wrong teal fueget Will make light do not be apaid all toil In the you the marcus

Head Quarters left Wing 120<sup>th</sup> O.V.I. on Board U.S.S. Key West No. 2 afloat on the Mis. River betw. Helena & Gaines Landing Dec. 21/1862

My dear Brother Moses!

I have just returned from the Hurricane Deck where I witnessed the getting loose from the Shore at Helena [Arkansas], and superintended, the falling in the Column of the Fleet at Regular Order of my gay little Steamer Key West No. 2 which with five Comps. of the gallant 120th comfortably quartered on her, I have the honor to command. When I arrived in my State Room and commenced taking off my boots I looked at my watch and found it to be only half past eight P.M., to early to go to sleep so I concluded to put on my slippers and enjoy my hour between this and bed time by writing to you, my true and trusty friend, thinking that perhaps this being Sunday Evening and out of business you might perchance be sitting in your happy family circle & forsooth talk about me and if so our thoughts might meet and embrace each other a comfort which we may perhaps be deprived of, for some time to come, but let us trust in our heavenly father & hope for the best. While I write the boat shakes awfull but if we do not get a shell or two through our Ladies Cabin

I think my writing may be with a little care intelligible, but if that little accident should happen it might make me <u>rather</u> nervous and spoil my handsome stenography.

I have, if my memory serves me right, in my last letter from Memphis given you a graphic discription of my situation which if I have told you at all, I am satisfied that [I] have said, so far as Col. Brigadier & Divission General is concerned I could not be situated better. They are truly all my friends and any of them will go as far to please me as any superior officer ever dit for an inferior, in fact it seems to be their constant studdey to do something that I would like. Col. French is in command of the right wing on board Steamer Jesse K. Bell and our Brigadier with his staff are on board of her, they send for me this afternoon while we lay coaling and I had to take supper and amid negro singing, & dancing Guitar playing, Smoking and dancing joking and laughing we whiled away a merry time untill the Signal gun rang through the air, which reminded us that the Flagship was leaving & we were to follow and then they coaxed me the hardest kind to stay over night & join my command in the morning. [German translate to "But they didn't know that I left my Major behind very

drunk, and he was totally incompetent to issue even the simplest order; a serious problem of our dear Major which is very harmful to him since he unfortunately understands very little in his most beautiful sobriety, "a la militaire", but he is a pleasant, nice fellow who would kiss my big toe three times a day if I gave him the opportunity."]

As for this Department I must say that I am not much impressed with its order, discipline, nor soldiery bearing of the Soldier, I am sorry to say we find many Regiments out here utterly demoralized, who instead of being able to pride themselves of being Soldiers in the Great & glorious cause of the Union & for the Constitution, can boast of being a debauched sett of ruffians & many of them might be termed a perfectly lawless sett of robbers & thiefes. My God what will become of such men after the War is over, oh for a McClellan in every Department that could go on undisturbed by a jealous set of abolitionists and while he would soon end the war we could after it is over boast of having had a civilized mode of warfare.

Speaking of McClellan reminds me of the facts that the last news we had was that Burnsides was agoing to have a fight and somehow I do not know why, but knowing as I think I do that part of the army I am ever since apprehensive, I am allmost affeared to say it, but it just seems to me that Burnsides or any other General in Command of that Army would get whipped except McClellan. May be you will laugh at me, but Moses I think I have sufficient knowledge of military to justify me in saying that McClellan is the only man for that Army & ere this War is over I think the whole Country will have to acknowledge it in spite of all evil and malignant opposition of a jealous and rodden hearted abolition crew, who are using all their efforts to influence the President who I really think is an honest man if let alone. Enough of this dark picture & let us hope Burnsides may be successfull or may ere this have driven the Rebels from the Rappahannock & Mattaponie & every other Anie and may ere this have Richmond, he made a good General under McClellan.

Now Mosey you must allow me to run a little to night as I am all alone in the Ladies Cabin & nothing but the regular puffs of of the steam out of the pipe & the regular working up and down & back & forth of the Machinery of the boat is all I have for Company. Officers & men are in the Arms of Morphis & I feel like letting my thoughts run as they will knowing they go to a friend, where the foolish part will be overlooked.

By the way, they may be the last I ever will have an opportunity to send to you. I trust and pray they may not, but the fortunes of War are as of the outside world, very uncertain only a little more so but let us hope, pray and trust that God in his infinite Mercy may as He has often before protect & deliver me from all harm, for I have really much to live for. Yet I mean to do my duty and my whole duty and if my poor life will be any benefit and assistance in ending this long and unfortunate Struggle in favor of our glorious Union God knows I will gladly give it. Oh my dear Moses it would do your Soul good to see a fleet of over 100 Vessels besides the Gunboats on the father of waters. The Vessels filled with Uncle Sams boys gay happy and cheerfull, all ready to meet danger and do battle for the good old Flag. Oh yes by the way I have not yet told you where we are going to & what for, but I enclose you a copy of General Order 131 issued by our brave Divission General which will explain itself. By the heading you will see where we belong & by reading you will see where we are going and what we mean to do and I will only say that the 120<sup>th</sup> & your humble servant mean to do their full share if we get a chance, it will no doubt be hot & bloody work the expedition consists of about 40,000 men under General Sherman (a Brother to Senator John Sherman & also Col Sherman of Mansfield) and a fleet of Gunboats in command of Rear Admiral Porter, I think that force should take Vicksburg and clear the Mississippi River to New Orleans and I think they will. About an hour before I left Memphis I made the acquaintance of a Son of Loeb

Herrnsheim a brother to the one that married "Cheuley" von Gundersheim and also Charley Schloss they as a brother in law to Esther they as well as myself felt most d-m sorry that we dit not meet before. We met under singular circumstances. [German and Yiddish translates to "After I had my people in the boat, I walked along the riverbank and saw a Yehudah and his wife. I remembered the Sabbath and decided to have a kosher lunch. So, as my friend and his wife came closer, I said, "Happy Sabbath, dear people," frightening the gentleman and probably his wife, being offered "Happy Sabbath" by a man in uniform with sword, spurs, and so forth and so forth. I asked where one could eat a kosher lunch. The gentleman said I could go with him, or to Mr. Levy who was holding a Jewish Boarding house. I went to Levy and found him and about 30 Jews very surprised when I asked if I could have a Chanukah lunch (my friend at the river bank told me Sabbath Chanukah). But when I sat at the table and Levy took a good look at me he said, "I think the face looks familiar" and when I told him my name he said, "Dear God, a son of Rabbi Mosche of Abenheim, a Lieutenant Colonel." I was surprised and discovered soon that he was a son of Loeb Herrnsheim. Carl Schloss is married to Levy's niece. We went to visit him and he was very busy and I promised to return in the evening and stay overnight but unfortunately the departure signal was given an hour

earlier and I had to miss a pleasure I would have very much enjoyed and I am convinced it would have been very stimulating for both of us.]

Just now the Signal of danger sounded. I must go and see what it meant. Supposed Guirillas in the Woods on shore & the whole fleet anchored it is awfull dark & I do not believe we will make any demonstrations to night, the Gunboats are plying up and down & I think they can attend to any thing ordinary for to night.

With this interruption it is getting late & I must bring my long Epistle to a close. Now Moses let me tell you write often & do not wait for me for many times weeks may pass in a Campayne like this that I may not have a chance to write to you, but at any time will it give me undiscripable happiness to hear from you my more than Brother. Give my love to your dear Wife & boys, to Onkel & Aunts, Esther & child, Marx & family, Michael & family, Joseph & family, Simon & family, & all the friends don't forget Ruhman Frank Muhler Bolender & Raban & more Especially my old friend Wm. Wise and tell him what Civillian Spiegel done wrong Col Spiegel will make right do not be afraid old Bill my horse, Saddle, Sword Sash &c are all right.

Ever your true

## Marcus

Whead Sumater left thing 1304003 Whead W. S. J. Key West sto 2 afleat between Helena & Vicksburg D 50 23/62 mile My dear dear this and Children Immo acompetenced Rugen alle, Blanks, Cantand officeresacke and the general When ance of my Command upon the horicand deet and found them nearly all in fighting firm after which & concluded to dome down in the Ladree Cabin port in the abune of the Ladies appropriated for the are the Commissioned Offers and der Wether or part it could yout Something interest to my dear Wife. Jon an questionally law my little in which I anomed to you that we were to Juit Of gard fine withen a Setter to Horny breenchomm on board the Beat and mailed at Afelina which he puchably has Ere their and aquainted you with the contents.

We are non failing down to Dificand the weather is tenly admirable and most congenial, & Spend and home on deall in my Chint pleanes and found it as wand as meeparg for Domfort, the Orm is deciting facts a repeating Warmet & the head is fur strong to quedent of persons hearthy then furt thrill of the Older at so fal a day of seeing a Bletof atthe formboats drawn up is him and Shiling at proper distances to take the Stont in his den ". There is no use of concealing the fast that I appelied a ferious and blacky thrugele as the Taking of the Muther Rebel Port of brekkeny is the object of this apedition I very hope that the antito, his in daige of this important task are ful giaently familiar well the Servicery, your fortifications of the turing so as to be Midting for a defeat in a hanning. Ohd forew as near as C Can find ant is about H2000 men and gleet of Lunhoato

a force which wontel allmost deem pap figuent to take any place and Q geel and de dill take Vickshing. Then & close as provid the bills I know not but I plass continue to write and of a chance of mailing it medents whall I will close it of view and this it . - I have nothing Very particular to write The proced to me wither have a perior a grant dal of my time looking. I have Walter long letters to Inone Josephy When plenetion Chapman he & read the Pactices of feel as well as low wal thank to O only hunt I ming get the fame assurance from you and get my beloved med at home, I fal fimillat boutled about my little Mary but Gole de es all light. Heleina is mit muel of a Wind for a for the first of the times have been blomed fry and faces In Consequence of Finila fining

Ot mit queterday Captand ferry Ankeny a Dow of ald Serverel Unkerny who is as strong addennes, at as the ald man is Republican und the meest man & Doer 2no. that Fame he belongs to the 3ª Jana Megto de as alas gras with us, Oul Grenes is in Command I bell and teamer Jene Hell and gails indiately in grit of us on Augadier that Idi Head I marters and braid of the fille & Bell, he wan Geellow K man, tim and I are foreside . Our boarding for orbie & or gong 15 yulu day is mit near as good alit was an the Port Mayne and searcely any better than Sand I de was a very little came and timbled me a great deal bit d think te is quite over it. Orean to try and get a Cheapar Hause to take mito Batte of a need pre & hate to talle Chadley in those I had him night aloneside of a here the

Head Quarters left Wing 120<sup>th</sup> O.V.I. On board U.S.S. Key West No. 2 afloat between Helena & Vicksburg Dec 22/62

My dear dear Wife and Children!

I just finished Inspection of arms Acoutrements Knapsacks, Blankets Canteens Havresacks and the general appearance of my Command upon the hurricane deck and found them nearly all in fighting trim after which I concluded to come down in the Ladies Cabin now in the absence of the Ladies appropriated for the use of the Commissioned Offcrs and see wether or not I could put something or other together that might be of interest to my dear Wife. You unquestionably have my letter in which I anounced to you that we were to sail I have since written a Letter to Henry Greenebaum on board the Boat and mailed at Helena which he probably has ere this and aquainted you with its contents.

We are now sailing down to Dixie and the weather is truly admirable and most congenial, I spend an hour on deck in my Shirtsleeves and found it as warm as necessary for comfort, the Sun is darting forth a refreshing warmth & the breath is just strong to prevent oppressive heat & then just think of the Idea at so fair a day of seeing a Fleet of at least one hundred Steamers besides the Gunboats drawn up in Line and sailing at proper distances to "take the Lion in his den". There is no use of concealing the fact hat I apprehend a serious and bloody struggle as the taking of the stubborn Rebel Fort of Vicksburg is the object of this Expedition I only hope that the authorities in charge of this important task are sufficiently familiar with the Territory, force & fortifications of the Enemy so as to be sure of having an adequate force to be victorious for a defeat in a case like this I would look upon as ruinous. The forces as near as I can find out is about 42,000 men and a fleet of Gunboats a force which would allmost deem sufficient to take any place and I feel sure we will take Vicksburg.

When I close or mail this letter I know not but I shall continue to write and if a chance of mailing it presents itself I will close it at once and ship it. I have nothing very particular to write The River does not present anything very striking to me neither have I spent a great deal of my time looking. I have written long letters to Moses Joseph, Cohn, Greenebaum, Chapman &c & read the Tactics I feel as well as ever real hearty & I only trust I may get the same assurance from you and all my beloved ones at home, I feel somewhat troubled about my little Mosey, but hope he is all right. Helena is not much of a town but a strong body of Soldiers are laying there many of whom will accompany our Expedition.

The most of the small towns have been burned by our forces in consequence of Guirilla firing. I met yesterday Captain Henry Ankeny a Son of old General Ankeny who is as strong a democrat as the old man is Republican and the nicest man I ever saw of that Name. he belongs to the 3<sup>d</sup> Iowa Regt. he is also going with us. Col. French is in Command of the right wing on Steamer Jesse K. Bell and sails imediately in front of us our Brigadier has his Head Quarters on board of the Jesse K. Bell, he is an excellent man, him and I are friends.

Our boarding for which we pay \$1<sup>50</sup>/100 per day is not near as good as it was on the Fort Wayne and scarcely any better than I could cook myself. John & Charley are well, Charley is as gay as ever, I had him shod a little while ago & he was a very little lame which troubled me a great deal but I think he is quite over it. I mean to try and get a cheaper Horse to take into Battle if I need one I hate to take Charley in, though I had him right alongside of where the canons were fired 50 times & he never looked.

Mild Gy day 1200 11. 1 and and M. I. Kay Mart after 220 milie below Memphin Ore 23/62 My dead dear good wife vehilden . late , conveymently the Sheet send to you this there is written on the sound I given to the Chaptain to mail to day welle he had any medine opening an not I don't the Une I have cloud that theet holding of any importance chas becaude Except the barning of 2 Manhations which is a daily ve-Concure. Whenever any boat is qued noto from three by Imillas they land lathe what they find fit to use and bound they heighborhoad, This is my Cider a should you be fired into by any Junan and those, landy clean aut all opposition, talle such perpect, as you think of any
Value to the Government of the W.J. and from the neighboring founds haven the clouthis made he necessary and may be purt but I declaw I can not see it, for instance many good and the there men may live along the bird and some malicina guillas fleppencies to know of the Alex acustice may congregate and this and that a her property fine culo the boat the man, the miles dance the in that neighbacher will have to suffer, while the I hadd lands will be sage and of wack puter linkay and their Afresico langhing at the mischief they have stoul. Juch is the Infiel of Was and Inch more, he needs any but Such would Judy and be, my note of war Jan get if I get find with But my opinion in that duch acht of violence in my humple

Munon have a queat tendercey of demonatinging the any and outing an unpresable frist Viglaked, while and the attes , the guilty? & and hailed by dankies in the most cheering spicion and quat manifestation of fay the your devil prequeate h 1 Firm Jutimes to a imploining that secons hand to see and read to compy, yet if all the agitalion had never here and there from and infortunate men been Carden mere their is no question but they would have here nor a thereaft to human't in a social, philantoophil of humand anywere hartas it is it seems chand to deary a privilege to be free yet when ate the ather thank you see thansands of the Contractions, Had firm their masters,

in a munable and Olancing + filthy courdition it then fin a spirit of philan trophy you will be be be in better be in flancy that such freedom as dead give your The home on the deck to the shaking of the book purch, and really I do not thereas wither you can read it aptin I have written I had beig Will and feel as heart, has Charfull as need he. If I conto any get a letter from you arinning me of your wellfer I wante feel as Well as dran

Hd. Q Left Wing 120th O.V.I. on board

U.S.S. Key West afloat 220 miles below

Memphis Dec 23/62

My dear dear good wife & children!

I find that I have been 1 day late, consequently the Sheet send to you this A.M. was written on the  $22^{nd}$  & given to the Chaplain to mail to day wether he had any mailing opportunity or not I dont know.

Since I last closed that last Sheet nothing of any importance has occurred, except the burning of 2 plantations which is a daily occurrence. Whenever any boat is fired into from Shore by Gurillas they land take what they find fit to use and burn the neighborhood. This is my Order "Should you be fired into by any person on Shore, land, clean out all opposition, take such property as you think of any value to the Government of the U.S. and burn the neighboring houses, barns &c." Now this may be necessary and may be just but I declare I can not see it, for instance many good and true Union men may live along the River and some malicious Guirillas happening to know of the Fleet coming may congregate on this or that ones property & fire into the boat, the man, the widow or the Orphans who may perchance live in that neighborhood will have to suffer, while the guilty Gurillas long before the boat lands will be safe out of reach

miles away on their Horses laughing at the mischief they have done. Such is the justice of War and such may be necessary but such would surely not be my mode of warfare, yet if I get fired into I shall do as directed. But my opinion is that such acts of violence in my humble opinion, have a great tendency of demoralizing the Army and creating an ungovernable spirit of violence, while on the other hand it scarcely if ever strikes "the guilty".

We are hailed by darkies in the most cheering spirit and great manifestation of joy the poor devils frequently by signs gestures &c imploringly ask to be taken out of bondage that seems hard to see and not to comply, yet if all the agitation had never been and those poor and unfortunate men been left in their once happy state of carelessness their is no question but they would have been more benefit to humanity in a social, philanthropic & humane Auspice but as it is, it seems hard to deny a privilege to <u>be free</u>. Yet when on the other hand you see thousands of the Contrabands pulled away in the same manner from their masters, in a miserable and starving & filthy condition then in a spirit of philantrophy you will say, better be in slavery than such freedom as I can give you.

The noise on the dock & the shaking of the boat prevents me allmost from writing and really I do not know wether you can read it often. I have written I am very well and feel as hearty and Cheerfull as need be. If I could only get a letter from you asuring me of your wellfare I would feel as well as I ever dit.



With Mand boat, Wooding at Millikun Janding an 20 miles from Vickeling an Christmass Morning my dear They Day we hand a for moments time to firesh a letter and mail it & would day to you that I am getting ! hered feet better. The weather is Mendit, O Enclory our a plose placed in the Wands this morning, Eucy thing is growing micely. I was this morning theme the Man of operation Q will give it to you in short, We have to land Sommheres near the Vagoortine reduce fart Apaines in the gazzon, brand Will fain us Dommhere bet Weel the Jaggon & black hine

Junal Banks will come Whe from Men Odeans with pis & pedition and grant Theman, Banks & Admin Porter with the gunhoaks will fintly appendie lugthe I think their Can be und dont of duccess it is a gigandie more ment of ty Idnly the printions are por puty and Duccessfully have. We must be Victorias Cant day nothing about this an 32 days I had one letter firm you. How do you think I am to state It' the you da will? & wight I knew it. I wish I knew it. Jonaile the thigher and all the fininds your time Horain

On the same, boat, wooding

At Millikens Landing

20 miles from Vicksburg on

Christmas Morning

## My dear!

They say we have a few moments time to finish a letter and mail it. I would say to you that I am getting better & heartier every day, I never felt better. The weather is splendit, I enclose you a flower plucked in the woods this morning, every thing is growing nicely.

I was this morning shown the plan of operation I will give it to you in short. We are to land somewheres near the Yazzoo River, reduce Fort Haines in the Yazzoo, Grant will join us somewhere between the Yazzoo & black River. General Banks will come up from New Orleans with his expedition and Grant, Sherman, Banks & Admiral Porter with the Gunboats will jointly opperate together.

I saw the maps & everything & think their can be no doubt of success, it is a gigantic movement & if only the junctions are properly and successfully made, we must be victorious. Dont say nothing about this. In 32 days I had one letter from you. How do you think I am to stand it? Are you all well?

I wish I knew it.

The weather is like June & July at home everything growing delightfully.

Good Bye. God bless You and the Children and all the friends.

Your true & loving,

Marcus



Md. And left Wing 120th Ol.S H. Key West W? 2 9 20 26/02 9 miles of Jagger Fire & Jois, My dear dear Wife At is with princh pleasure and gradification that I ligan pet in my Calimaple a day of united Gaitement to good my lare This normanie we left the Min Gover with at the stonly banting made and way up this fine por 9 miles We are now I believe some 10 anto from Wildow de day after We landed & Small filet force attempted to tompte us and 111 wind andered and I if Ener I felt proud in my life I da this night they thing time ant during the Extensent first to please me.

When I received the Order to getand the Reg + Horn a line on Palle with in front of a price I woods where theavy fing was Col Friend who was quite undell and in bed, have all the cert ant before 18 word call from While I told the Adjutain to chane the Capitains bring ant the Companies, I talk Johny and I winde you conta have Seen come all the Bank Snorting dancing & pharing a fair representative of a dar "How and as show as I had him and I got an him I felt her Eary land safe as I never dit before at times of battle. In this time thelow Came & the bunch als & Batter Comenced playing finiously Infanty was going it at a day rapid take in first of as and the Brys Came aut Horned like Uterano mot a bit Ef

ciled Way man to his place sperfectte, coal. Well Well Un pleads utind and and her Rege dit not got a that, Ewagh is Murmi to Everybady That the Mot will do to bet an Cal Otunch is post which I Effected as coal where the Bullets whitte as the is in a parlar the can not be detired no efciled But to morrow is the great day, to minum hieldo hing is to he taken and we are to perform a quat part & part dans the chland michin Stell Tivision is to march directly On Vicksburg our Droisin to his mudiate Mighto Eugage the gozees Jule, Smith to am Right, While at of Smiths as a faint is to try and reduce Fact Haques about 5 miles from here and the Jaggar Alace

The Original Plan was for us to wait untill Banks comes from eter orleans frank your Gunada, but Herman wants the floring alone, I hope to gad the may be freecesfall. Whatever my part may be I am Satisfied it will performer that neither you not any of my Children will Ence have Ho be astamed off, et is to hat in sece to winked and them and pray to my cheaven falte that in this infinite mercy the may grant me the privalen in letters you of this important went for many days the years to come Kemmber me to all the friends and since to never bits pair to be a bury day let me for to Bed thave smed dreams of my clear ance at fact & third it your then the Hooing husband marco

Hd. Qrs. left Wing 120th O.V.I. Str. Key West No. 2 Dec 26/62 9 miles up Yazzoo River Mis.

My dear dear Wife!

It is with much pleasure and gratification that I again sit in my Cabin after a day of unusual Excitement and have the pleasure of writing to you my love. This morning we left the Mis. River right at the mouth of the Yazzoo and slowly & cautiously made our way up this River for 9 miles We are now I believe some 10 miles from Vicksburg. To day after we landed a small Rebel force attempted to trouble us and we were ordered out & if ever I felt proud in my life I do this night. Everything turned out during the Excitement just to please me. When I received the Order to get out the Regt. & form a line-o-Battle right in front of a piece of Woods where heavy firing was going on, I thought I would let Col French who was quite unwell and in bed, have all the rest I could and get the Regiment out before I would call him.

While I told the Adjutant to have the Captains bring out the Companies, I told Johny to bring Charley from the boat and I wish you could have seen him come up the Bank Snorting dancing & pawing a fair representative of a "War Horse" and as soon as I had him out & got on him I felt as easy and safe as I never dit before at times of battle. By this time the Comp came & the Gunboats & Batteries comenced playing furiously Infantry was going it at a very rapid rate in front of us and the Boys came out & formed like Veterans not a bit Excited Every man to his place & perfectly cool. Well well the Rebels retired and our Regt dit not get a shot, Enough is known to Everybody that the 120th will do to bet on.

Col French is just what I Expected as cool where the Bullets whistle as he is in a parlor he can not be scared nor excited

But to morrow is the great day, to morrow Vicksburg is to be taken and we are to perform a great part I just saw the plan.

Mis River

Vicksbg

Steele Morgan R<sup>ive'</sup> Smith Ja<sup>220</sup>

Smith

## Ft. Haynes

Steele's Divission is to march directly on Vicksburg, our Divission to his imediate Right to engage the forces & forts, Smiths to our Right, while A. J. Smiths as a faint is to try and reduce Fort Haynes about 5 miles from here on the Yazzoo River. The Original Plan was for us to wait untill Banks comes from New Orleans & Grant from Grenada [Mississippi], but Sherman wants the Glory alone, I hope to God we may be successfull. Whatever my part may be I am satisfied it will [be] performed that neither you nor any of my Children will ever have to be ashamed off (it is to hot in here to write) and I trust and pray to my heavenly father that in his infinite mercy he may grant me the privilege in telling you of this important event for many days & Years to come.

God bless you and the Children. Remember me to all the friends and since to morrow bids fair to be a bussy day let me go to Bed have sweet dreams of my dear once at home and I feel that all will be right with me, in fact I know it. Your ever true & loving husband

Marcus