

Camp Adirondack Washington Nov. 18/63

Dear Wife- Once more do I find myself back in camp. As I wrote you last Sabbath, I started early Monday morning on our tramp to the front. We had to go over to Georgetown to "Forrest Hall" after our prisoners; We took 34 in all, deserters and stragglers from their Regts. Among their number was Albert Kingman from Keene Perses Kingmans Brother, he knew me and came and spoke to me. He was left behind to take charge of sick men & got picked up and was sent back to his Regt. It was 10 o'clock before we started in the Cars from the City. It was a beautiful day and I had a pleasant ride; there was only one drawback. I had to ride on the top of a freight car, and the cinders from the engine filled my eyes so that I could not look round as much as I wanted to. We passed through Alexandria, Fairfax

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We passed through Alexandria, Fairfax

and as far as Warrington Junction 3.5 miles from it, that night, where the train stopped the R.R. not being completed further, or not so freight trains run over it.

About four weeks ago the Rebels drove back Gen. Meade and tore up the track burning all the Sleepers, and heating the rails and bending them, and destroying every car and engine on the road between Fairfax Station and Rappahannock Station, making a perfect wreck of the road between those two points some 23 miles; But now the road is in good running order to Warrington Junction where all our supplies are landed for Gen. Meade's Army. The Rebels thought they were doing a big thing. They told that it would take the Yankees six months to repair it. It is now three weeks since they first commenced, had to cut their sleepers buy and haul rails, and two days ago the train passed over the whole road as far as Culpepper which is 9 m. beyond the Rappahannock. The road

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supposing we should not be daring en-
ough to venture so far on their sacred
soil, but the long ^{R.R.} bridge over the river
they completely destroyed, which is now
rebuilt in good shape. In three or four
days the road will be in shape to carry all
of the supplies of the Army of the Potomack be-
yond the Rappahannock. Now don't you think
they push things right along out here; But
you ought to see ~~the~~ ^{each} ~~other~~ side of the R.R.
for 25 miles, which is strewn with car wh-
eels, parts of char'd cars which escaped the
devouring flames, old burnt iron, and iron
rails bent round trees, elements of bridges
torn out, telegraph poles cut down, and
destruction and ruin stamped upon every
thing. Our Army has moved on both sides
of the R.R. making it a common road, which
is strewn with dead horses, making it very
disagreeable to those who have sensitive nasal
organs, as well as exceeding repulsive to the
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less the one hundred, who weary of toiling
to help on our cause have lain aside their
armor, and gone into winter quarters. I
felt, (in the language of the Poet) like saying,
poor old horse, let him die. There were no
houses to be seen on that once thriving land, but
on either side of the road huge chimneys
stood a little back on some commanding
eminence, as sentinals to reach the last death
throes of that that "Institution" which caused
the blight and ruin which is stamped
upon every thing around, even on the face of
nature. We expected to go right through in
the cars, but they told us they would not go till
the middle of the night, so we bunked out
in the open lot on bales of hay and sack of
corn and oates. When the cars was ready to
start, they agreed to inform us, but alas have
uncertain are the promises of man, for the
grey dawn appeared and we learned the train
had gone while we slept; we had our gu-
ards out to take charge of our priseners
but they did not know they were going on.
So we ate our hard tack and cold meat
and started on foot with eager faces
towards the famouth Rappihannock.
We started half past 7 o'clock, and
passed over ditches and rives, hedges
and ledges, through mud and sand,
by dead houses, broken wagons, dilapid-
ated farms, no orchards, untill we found
ourselves on the top of a knowl just as the mid

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by dead horses, broken wagons dilapid-
-ated farms, no orchards, untill we found
ourselves on the top of a knowl just as the mid
day sun shone on us telling us to halt, and refresh exhausted nature.

5 I would here say we were within one mile,
of the last great battle under Gen. Sedgwick
where we took these prisoners I wrote to you
about last week. As soon as we ate our
dinner we passed on through the very
battle field where so many of our brave
boys fell. The Rebels had all the advantage
of us in position, being on the summit of
the hill and fortified at the right &
left of the hill with entrenchments and
rifle pits between and nearly all
round. They poured the canister and
grape shot down on our boys killing
many and wounding lots, but fear-
less they pressed forward up the hill
beside the fortifications on the left
and took them by storm, as soon as we got
possession of their fortifications they began
to skedaddle, but some of our sharp-
shooters had during this time crossed
the river above and came down on the
other side and when they began to cross
the bridge cut them off, some of them
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the river to swim across but our bullets soon taught them, the only safe way for them was to surrender - so we bagged the whole of them - I saw where our dead were buried - The Rebels were flung into the rifle pits and covered up and our Company passed over their graves, as they are now under the travelled road. The battlefield was close to the river, the rebels had to leave a part of their pontoon bridge in the river.

We now have a good pontoon bridge in the same place where all our supplies cross to the army. Gen. Meads headquarters are four miles beyond the river.

We reached there two o'clock P.M. delivered up our prisoners, and rested nearly an hour when we again started for Brandy Station, as we learned a train would start from there during the afternoon. Brandy Station is five miles from the Rappahannock and four or five miles this side of Culpepper, We waited until nearly dark before the train started, then we had

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to ride on a dirt car. We left our knapsacks, with coats and blankets at Warrington Junction, in consequence we suffered some with the cold. We met the 10th Vt. at Brandy Station, the same that was with us at Poolesville last winter. They seemed to be in good spirits and liked out there much. There are, or was, some splendid farms in this section of the country, but now are deserted, as all of them in this section are desec. There was an old slave man and woman at the station waiting to take the cars for Washington, as free citizens; they were old but were pleased with the idea of freedom.

After we arrived at Burks station we changed our car for a good one with a warm fire. We arrived at Alexandria 12 o'clock at Washington two, and at camp 3 o'clock Wednesday AM. We marched that day 23 miles, and wonderful to say my feet were not at all sore. This side of the Rappahannock is infested with Mosby's Garillars, which kill many of our pickets. Near Warrington 11 of our men were

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