

St. Helena Island S.C.

Brother Lander.

Jan. 22<sup>nd</sup> 1864

As I had no chance to see you before we left Morris Island, I thought perhaps you would like to hear how we are situated, and what our prospects are.

The order to leave, came unexpectedly, and I am not sorry that we are away, although my chances for South trading is rather slim in this place. We have got rid of duty at the front, and out on the left, which is something at any rate, especially on such a night as last night, but for fear we should like the change too well, they are giving us three hours drill in the forenoon, and two and a half in the afternoon of ~~and two and a half~~ <sup>two and a half</sup> in the afternoon of every day. This is pleasant to say the least.

By and by, we shall get a taste of boat drill, which will be exceedingly agreeable

# Transcription:

St. Helena Island S.C.

Jan. 2<sup>nd</sup> 1864

Brother Leander

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The order to leave, came unexpectedly, and I am not sorry that we are away, although my chances for [wacth] trading is rather slim in this place. We have got rid of duty at the front, and out on the left, which is something at any rate, especially on such a night as last night, but for fear we should like the change too well, they are giving us three hours drill in <sup>^the</sup> forenoon, and two and a half in the afternoon of every day. This is pleasant to say the least.

By and by, we shall get a taste of boat drill, which will be exceedingly agreeable the water being nice and warm just now.

We have been newly armed and equipped throughout with the Spencer repeating rifle. These are the prettiest little rifle I have ever seen. They can be charged with seven cartridges in half the time it takes to load a common rifle, and then all you have to do is to fire them as fast as you please. They are very accurate too, and will carry as far as the Springfield. A thousand men armed with these rifles could fire seven thousand shots in less than a minute, such rapid firing as this must do terrible execution.

They are very easy to be kept clean, being well bronzed, well finished without bayonet, or rammer. The cartridges are made of copper and dirty the gun but very little. Then we have only one brass plate to clean. The cartridge boxes are about half as large as our old ones, and is attached to the waist belt. It seems Col. Kewley of the 5th Conn. had his pick in this department

## Transcription:

We have been nearly armed and equipped throughout with the Spencer repeating rifle. These are the prettiest little rifle I have ever seen. they can be charged with seven cartridges in half the time it takes to load a common rifle, and then all you have to do is to fire them as fast as you please. They are carry very accurate too, and will carry as far as the Springfield. A thousand men armed with these rifles could fire seven thousand shots in less than a minute, such rapid firing as this must do terrible execution. They are very easy to be Kept clean, being well bronzed, well finished without bayonet, or rammer, the cartridges are made of copper and dirty the gun but very little, then we have only one brass plate to clean, the cartridge boxes are about half as large as our old ones, and is attached to the waist belt. It seems Col. Hawley of the 7<sup>th</sup> Conn. had his pick in this department for a regiment to go with his, and so chose



us, both regts, are under his command now.  
Our rifles were made expressly for cavalry  
and I heard our chaplain, (who had just re-  
turned from a furlough home) telling day be-  
fore yesterday that all the most servicable  
men in this brigade were to be mounted  
and sent to the interior of Florida to fight  
guerrillars. I havn't much faith in this  
garn, but hope it will prove true.

I had much rather fight guerrillars than to  
charge sand batteries with open boats.  
Most of the 9<sup>th</sup> Conns. have enlisted again  
they are paying 500 dollars bounty.

They will commence enlisting in our  
regt. before long, have heard that the state  
is to pay 300, in addition to the Govern-  
ment bounty. I havn't made up my to  
enlist again, yet, don't know but I shall  
enlist again, yet, don't know, but I shall  
though. Nothing further of interest to write  
havn't heard from home so can furnish  
you with no news from this quarter.

Write a letter to Mother & the other

## Transcription:

us, both regts, are under his command now. Our rifles were made expressly for cavalry and I heard our chaplin, (who had just returned from a furlough home), telling day before yesterday that all the most serviceable men in this brigade were to be mounted and sent to the interior of Florida to fight guerrillars. I havn't much faith in this yarn, but hope it will prove true. I had much rather fight guerrillars than to charge sand batteries with open boats.

Most of the 7<sup>th</sup> Conn. have enlisted again they are paying 800 dollars bounty. They will commence enlisting in our regt. before long, have heard that the state is to pay 300, in addition to the Government bounty. I havn't made up my mind to enlist again yet, don't know but I shall though. Nothing further of interest to write havn't heard from home so can furnish you with no news from this quarter.

Mailed a letter to Mother there other

day. have one partly written to Julia  
Intend to write to Elmer as soon as  
I can get round to it. Give my love to  
Emily when ~~you~~ you write, and answer this  
if you can make it convenient.

From your brother Joe.

## Transcription:

day, have one partly written to Julia  
Intend to write to Elmer as soon as  
I can get round to it. Give my love to  
Emily when I you write, and answer this  
if you can make it convenient.  
From your brother Joe.