Brother Delander. John 2nd 1864 Dee you before we lift Morris Doland I thought perhaps you would like to hear how we are Detrated, and what our prospects are. The order to leave, came mexpectedly, and I am not sorry that we are away, although my Chances for warth brushing is hather slimen this place. He have got ries of duty at the front and out on the left, which is something at any rate, especially on such a might as last night, but for fear we should like the change too well, they are giving no three hours drill in the overson, and two and a half in the afternoon of. vanil two and a theily in the afternoon of. every day. This is pleasant to say the least. By and by, we shall get a taste of bout drill which will be exceedingly agreable

St. Helena Island S.C.

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

Brother Leander

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 [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 ^the 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.

It have been nearly armed and eguipel throughout with the Opencer refreating rifle These are the prethist little rifle I have ever seen. They can be charged with seven cart-- morges in half the time it latter 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 loo, and will carry as for as the Springfield. A Monsand men aimet with these rifles could fire seven thousand shots in less than a minute, such safuel firing as this must do terrible exception. They are very easy to be Rept clean being will bronzed, well finished without bay orlet, or rummer, the cartridges are mode of copper and dirty the gun out very little. Then we have only one bouss plate to clean the car bridge boxes are about helf as large carringe baxes are avone may to larget as one old ones, and is attached to the warst bett. It seems Oot, Hauly of the Ja Comme had his prick in this department

We have been nearly armed and equiped throughout with the Spencer repeating rifle These are the prettiest little rifle I have ever seen. they can be charged with seven cart--ridges 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 chaplin, (who had just se hirner from a farlough home letting day be fore gesterday that all the most servicable men in this brigade were to be mounted and sent to the interior of Horida to fight querrillars, I havn't much faith in this garn, but hope it will prove true. I had much rather fight querillars than to charge sand batteries with open boats, Most of the 1th Ooner have enlister again they are paying Soo dollars bounty. They will commence enhoting in ons sext before kong, have heard that the state to Juny Boo me addition to the Govern ment bounty, I havn't more up my to entist again get don't know but I shall entire again get about now out I shall Mongh. Nothing Jurther of interest to write havn't heard from home to can furnish you with no news from this quarter,

us, both regts, are under his command now. Our rifles were made expressly for cavalry and I heard our chaplin, (who had just re-turned 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 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.

Maild a letter to Mother there other

day have one partly wither to Julia Intend to write to Elmer go som as I can get sound to it. Two my love to Chily when I gon write and ans wer this if you can make it convenient. Hom four brother foe,

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.