

Camp McDowell Via.

Tuesday Morning July 16th 1861

Dear Gussie

It is now 6 o'clock A.M. I have just finished my breakfast and I hasten to drop just a line to you. It is a fact that we have got to go to ~~Wairfax~~ Fairfax. We start this afternoon at ~~3:12~~ 3 o'clock. We have got orders th that effect and the cooks are busy cooking up 3 days rations for us to carry with us. Our whole Division I believe are to move, 1000 men in all. Our Reg't and the 2nd have orders to act as Skirmishers to go ahead and pick off the enemies gunners. So you see we are to ~~have~~ have a taste of Battle before we go home. We shall undoubtedly help take the place and then ~~we~~ start for home leaving it in the hands of the three years troops. I expect to see the coat tails of the enemy fly in good earnest if they do not go of their own accord, I think that we can make them. We have no other thought but that of victory and that we must have. And now Gussie if I fall, be assured that my trust is in God and that all is well. He comforts me and he has sustained me thus far and I feel assured that he will not forsake me in the hour or peril. If in his providence he thinks best that I shall fall I know that he will take me to himself and that he will care for you. I leave all in his hands and now commending you to God and putting my own trust in him I wait the issue. ~~My~~ God bless and comfort you and protect me. I think that he will. I feel that I am doing God service even in Battle and I feel assured that he will prosper our armies and that victory will perch upon our Banners. God grant that it may. Good bye for now. Love to all

Horace

9 O'clock - Some think even now that we are going home but I doubt it. I think that we shall see Fairfax first. I must say that I am a little anxious to see the place there has been so much ~~said~~ said about it. I think that we shall be on our way home by Sunday nevertheless, and yet they may keep us here up to the very last day of our time before they let us leave. I do not anticipate a very hard fight. I think that they will be easily routed but the only way to find out is to try. If I die in the fight I shall not die a coward, be assured of this. I will write you again the very first opportunity I have but you will undoubtedly get an accoust of the fight if we have one through the papers before I can get a letter to you.

Washington City Monday P.M.
July 22nd 1861

Dear Gussie

I am here in the city after a severe battle on yesterday without a scratch. Our Reg. was terribly cut in pieces and many prisoners undoubtedly have been taken. But Thank God I am alive without a mark on my person. We are in hopes that many more of our men will arrive tonight. I write in haste to tell you that I am safe. As soon as all of our men get together we shall probably get discharged and start for home. Good bye. Be patient a few days and I will be with you again.

Horace

You will probably have an account of the Battle in the papers. The particulars I will give you when I get home.

It is raining hard here now.

N. Haven July 29th, 1861

Dear Gussie

After a tedious journey from Washinton I am here in Old Conn. We arrived in N. H. about 10 o'clock yesterday (Sunday Morning) and for the first time in about 3 weeks I ate a good dinner at the Republican Wigwam. I am now at the residence of a Mr. Dickerman, a druggist, on Chapel St., the next block above the N. Haven Hotel. He is a fine man and is doing all in his power for our comfort. We expected to get away from here so as to arrive in Danbury this Monday eve but it will be impossible to get the Muster rolls made out so as to get mustered out and paid off in time. We may get home on tomorrow morning but I think not. If we get home tomorrow night we shall do well. I think that there is no doubt but that we shall get home tomorrow eve. You may expect us on the evening train. I am well and I begin to feel very much like myself again. The particulars of my journey I will relate when I get home. I received a letter from Geo. this morn.

Good bye Love to all

Horace

We feel a little more safe here than we did at Bulls Run

There has been some difficulty or misunderstanding about our Pay and Muster Out Rolls and in consequence I fear that we will not be able to get home. Before Thursday. It is too bad but I can not help it. It is ~~important~~ important that I should be here to give my signature to the papers in order to get my pay. If we come before you will hear again.

Monday Eve -- The first part of this letter I wrote this morn. The prospect this Eve is a little better for us to get home tomorrow Eve. They tell us now that our Co. may possibly get through so as to take the train to arrive in Danbury in the eve. But it is uncertain. You will probably get word from some of us before we get home.

Horace