

Camp Winfield Scott Apl 16th

Dear Mother,

I received your letter dated April seventh day before yesterday and the papers I got last Saturday so I think after this you had better direct to Washington as they come through quicker that way. There has not been much going on here since I wrote last, there has been some Artillery firing every day but not enough to amount to much. The Batteries however have opened this morning and are having quite a lively time. We have mooved back about half a mile from the camp that we had when I wrote you last it begun to get pretty hot there for us the rebels would throw about a dozen shells in every day but did not hapen to hurt any boddy. I thought when I wrote you from Hampton that we were going to have an easy time marching through to Richmond but I have found out since that I was badly Sucked in. I think that General McClellan himself did not expect to find so much to contend with they discover some new obstacle nearly every day, but I think in the end we can take the town and that once done and then the war is over. We are encamped on the ground that our troops ocupied in the time of the revolution and Genl McClellans head quarters are on the same spot that Washington had his tent. The Country here is beautiful and I think I should like to Confiscate a good big farm here there are a great many peach orchards here, some of them have as many as four thousand trees in them they have been blossoming for the last two weeks and are now in full bloom. There is quite a city here now the population must be nearly two hundred thousand and they have all mooved in within the last ten days they do not have verry large houses but they are good enough to sleep in. I think there must be more bussiness going on here now than there ever was before. The day after the advance got in there was a telegraph up and in good order clear up to Porters headquarters which was within a mile of the rebel forts and that I think is doing things up in a hurry. Our men have taken possesion of a steam saw mill and are sawing out large quantities of lumber. I was out on picket yesterday and lay within half a mile of the forts all day they are to work all the while on the breasworks and mean to stand to the last we fired a few shots at them and got a couple of Shells in return but they did not hurt any thing. We were paid off last Monday and I will put fifteen dollars in this letter. I do not know as you will ever get it but if you do not it will have to go. You will please pay my debts and if there is any left you can use it for yourself and Sommers if you choose to I am all out of postage stamps and can not get any here. I wish you would send me a few. I do not know how I can write to any boddy but you at present for we are kept on the go nearly all the time. I am off duty to day on account of being on picket yesterday. I have been down to the bay to play and had a salt water bath, the weather is verry warm here now, full as warm as it is at home in June. I hope you will write every week whether you hear from me or not for it seems pretty good to hear from home once in a while.

Your aff Son

C J Hardaway