

Sandy Hook Md Aug 2nd 1864

Dear Mother

I suppose you will think it very strange in not hearing from me oftener when I am so near home. When I wrote you last we were at Washington & expected to stay there until we could get fitted up for a campaign, but we were disappointed in that for the same day that I wrote you we got orders to be ready to move at a moments notice. So we started right off while we were issuing clothing to the troops & everything was badly mixed. We started for Harpers Ferry & crossed there last Saturday night very late. Went up the Shenandoah Valley about 6 miles when we got orders to go back into Maryland again for the rebs were back there again ahead of us & had burned Chambersburg Pa. We are laying in camp with the trains at Sandy Hook about 3 miles from Harpers Ferry on the Md Side of the Potomac. Have not heard any thing of our troops since they left us. Yesterday at 3 O'clock P.M. we had a dispatch saying that the rebels were taking dinner at Jefferson about 12 miles from where we are in camp, but I guess they will not trouble us for we have got a heavy guard of infantry & a battery of Six guns to take care of us. I was very much surprised to find old Mr. Casweld at Harpers Ferry the other day. He is a private in the 5th N.Y. Heavy Arty. I feel sorry for him for I think he might have done better, but I suppose he went in for the bounty & if that is the case I shall have to say that I have no mercy for the bounty jumpers. I see that the government is accepting troops for One year which I think is entirely wrong. If they are going to have troops I say take them for 3 years or not at all for they will surely need them for more than one year & it will take nearly six months to organize them & get them ready for the field & then they only see about six months active service. But I guess what I say dont amount to much. So I will close up. Please remember me to all the people & tell Gust I would like to hear from him. If he wont write tell him to send me one of his wifes photographs for I would like to see how my Sister in law looks. We have not had a mail in nearly two weeks for the Communication is not very good here. But I hope you will write just the same for I shall get the letters some time

Your Affectionate Son
CJ Hardaway