

Seven Miles from Richmond June 7th 1862

Dear Mother

I received your kind letter last night you can not imagine how much good it does a soldier to get a letter from home it is about the only thing that he has to comfort and cheer him and it seems almost as good as meeting an old friend when he gets a letter from home.

I presume you have heard about all the battles that have been fought here within the past week and have got all of the particulars The two last battles were fought within two miles of where I was on picket but we have not heard any of the particulars yet only by way of camp rumors which you can not tell anything about at all. They are a great deal worse than some of the story tellers that you have in N.

Berlin. I think that Harrington will be at home before a great while after more recruits the Captain said yesterday that he should send him back for that purpose I think that is the best thing that he can do for Harrington can not stand an active campaign like this I think it will ruin a great many more men with stronger constitutions than he has got it is hard finding ten men in a company that are perfectly well, but the most of them keep up and go on with their duties the same as usual. There is something in the climate or food that does not agree with the men for everyboddy has the dysentery the most of the time. We are all in hopes however that we shall not have to stay here a great deal longer on this kind of grub I think we can stand it as long as the rebs can though. I saw about six hundred go along the road the other day and they all looked worse than Zeke Chapins cattle do in the spring and you must know that they looked partly hard. I was in a poor white mans house the other day and all they had to eat was just indian meal. They could not get meat of any kind The man told me he had not had any coffee or tea in six months. I happened to have plenty in my haversack and I gave them enough to last a day or two They seemed to be very grateful for it and said the Yankees were not so bad as they had been told they were. All the clothing the children had on were just a ragged shirt they had not worn anything else since last fall. I thought I had seen poor folks up North, but this beats anything I ever saw before. I sent my money by express and hope it will get through all right. Should have sent it by mail but the report is that the mail is kept over at Head Quarters a week or two before it is sent so I thought I would rather risk it by express than have it lay here. You can use it for yourself or Summers if you choose to do so if not you will please buy it on side for seed for I am in hopes of getting back before many months to use it.

I wish you would tell Libbie and the rest of them that I would write to them if I could but I can not get the time so I shall have to put it off until I can get more time. Our regiment is still in Porters division but the division is commanded by Genl Morell. Col McQuade has charge of Morells brigade and Porter commands a corps five of the companies have been taken from the regiment and attached to other divisions and I hope by that our duties will not be quite as hard as they have been heretofore. Probably before you get this the fate of Richmond will be decided I hope so any way for I am tired of waiting for the battle to come. Please remember me to all the people.

Your Aff Son

CH Hardaway

Write as often as you can.