

Fortress Monroe, March 24 '62

Dear Mother,

You may think it strange to get a letter dated here We broke camp last Thursday at 2 o'clock pm and marched three miles beyond Alexandria in the rain, poured right down all this afternoon and it was not verry pleasant marching. we were lucky enough to find some empty tents in camp Calafornia so that we did not have to lay out in the rain that night Friday at 4 o'clock we started for the boats and made out to get on board about 10 o'clock at night. There is some twenty or thirty thousand troops in the fleet and among them are the 14th Col McLamartin and the Ellsworth Regiment. We came down the river on one of the Hudson River boats. There is quite a number of them here, it was a splendid sight to see the fleet coming down the river. There was no less than twenty steamers in sight all the while and with the flags flying and bands playing it made rather a gay scene. The Captains of the Albany boats had a number of races yesterday which made rather exciting times. We are laying now between Fortress Munro and Sewalls Point Can see the Stars and Stripes on one side and the Palmetto flag on the other. The gun boat Monitor that the papers have said so much about is lying but a short distance from out boat, it looks like a long platform with a large cask setting on top of it that is the best description that I can give of it. We are attached to Gen. Porters division which is said to be the best lot of troops in the Army. I can not tell where we are going too Some think to Richmond and some to help Burnside. I do not care much which way it is if we only come out at the top of the fight. We have been living on Sea biscuits since last Tuesday I have had only one Cup of Coffee since we started from Camp. If you write to me you will direct your letter to Washington just the same as you have done all the time. I have not time to write any more at present

Your aff Son,

CJH