

2-6-1864

Letter, 1864 February 6, Oscar D. Ladley to Mother and Sisters [Catherine, Mary, and Alice Ladley]

Oscar D. Ladley

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Folly Island S.C.
Feb. 6th 1864.

Dear Mother & Sisters,

I received your letter
of June 17th a few days ago, but
could not answer it immediately
for the reason that I was on duty
with a fatigue party on Coler Island
for ten days and have just been
relieved. I had a detail of fifty
men building a "Causway or dike" from
Coler Is. to Horse shoe Is. about 300 yds
in length. We were right in the picket
line and could see the rebel pickets
on James Island very distinctly, as they
were only about 800 yds from us.
They did not disturb us at all nor
we them. On last Saturday they threw
a few shells at us but did no
damage, we kept on at work the
same as though nothing had happened.

Part of the time we worked on
a "Redoubt" farther to our right, which
Command a bridge connecting Coles with
James Islands, and while there the
rebels unmasked two earth works not
a thousand yards from us, as yet
they have no guns mounted in them
or we would have had hot work for a
while. Our work is as far advanced
as theirs and it will be a race
between us and the best fellow
gets through first. At this point
all flags of truce communicate.

There is a look out here from which
we can see Charleston very plain,
Fort Sumpter, James Island batteries.
We were at work eleven days at the
front a distance from Camp of about
thirteen miles, we took tents with
us and camped near our work.
This morning all the troops on this
(Jolly) Island were reviewed by
Gen. Lee. Every thing of that
kind takes place on the beach.

at low tide.

Gen. Belmore & Co. are now at
Kilten Head. Gen. Long commands
the further division of this Dept.
Gen. Ames commands the Island.
I intend going up on Morris Island
one of these days to take a view
of the surroundings.

An Expedition left Milton Head
a few days ago for parts unknown.
We will hear from it in a few
weeks.

We are looking for a mail to
day and I will finish when
I see what they say for me.

Feb 7th The mail arrived, I got your letter of
July 24th and was glad to get it.

Our Division leave here to night on some kind
of an Expedition, will be gone probably a week
or more. We are having very pleasant weather
just now. Our Veterans will start for
this in the course of a week or it maybe
two weeks. John Green is well, as are
all that you know. Stephen Hany has

not been heard from, and
do not know where he is.

My respects to all

Affectionately
O. D. Ladley