

MS92_9_7_08

Camp of the 15th Ind Reg't 21st Brigade-Gen'l Wood's Division-
Tullahoma- Tenn _ on Nashville & Chattanooga R. R. Aug 7th 1862

My dear cousin Mattie-

Our Mails are again delayed-and no letters have been received by me from anybody for some days-and having just come in from picket- have to do something to pass the time- concluded I could do nothing better than trouble you again with an epistle. I believe I have not written to you since we left Wartrace. Had just gone out on picket- with the company on last Saturday- what a courier came galloping out-ordering me immediately to Camp-when I got to Camp-found evrything packed up- and the Regiment ready to march. Marched five miles that evening- laid out in the rain all night- arrived at this place on Sunday morning at 8 A.M. 15 miles from Wartrace. Took cars immediately for Manchester-15 miles north east of this, arrived at 4 P.M. found there had been an alarm there that morning- (occasioned/occasional?) by the appearance of a few guerrillas. The next morning we were ordered to march back here-arrived here at 4 P.M. laid out in the rain all that night-the next morning we went into Camp here-for how long I do not know-nor even care-we have marched and countermarched so much lately-that too-without-doing anything- that I do not care where we go-when or how- getting desperate.

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This is a miserable apology for town-and a miserable set of people live any it - Rebels and miserably poor- ignorant and ugly. But I am now content to stop anyplace- so it is really stopping- for we have marched so much that I am heartily tired of it. We have to picket very strongly- as we are surrounded by large parties of guerrillas-that may dash down upon us at any time. Whenever the new levy of troops get into the field and take our places-we can then move onto the enemy- the old troops can then be concentrated for more efficient action. I have just- this morning heard of the new call of 300,000 more Militia-to be drafted into the service for nine months. I am really glad to hear of it-the more the troops the sooner the war will be ended. And then the Drafting suits me-it will take a good many-who are either silent appeasers of the war or afraid to take the field. Ah! I fancy I see some of my old friends looking rather queer as (the?) read the Proclimation-what will Milt Forgy and a few of such fellows do? What will many of our nice-delicate-tape-fingered young clerks do? By the way- I believe your adored is a clerk- ah-ha! I only hope he may be picked up and sent out-the service will make a man of him if it does not kill him. We-the "boys"-who have been in the service so long-only have to laugh at such a Proclimation- how and what consternation it will cause in the ranks of many of our nice citizens. Our Fathers cannot go- and neither of us have brothers to go- though I now have a brother- in-law-wont Lizzie be very uneasy- lest Vinton be taken?

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I for one-would not like to have the name of belonging to a Drafted Regiment-it will stick to a man as long as he lives. After the war is over- a man will be asked this question-Was you in the service-Sir-? yes sir-What Regiment-? No__ Ohio or Ind or any other state. One of the Drafted Regiments-was it not? Well y-e-s. Ha! Ha. you was not patriotic enough to enlist in one of the various calls- had to be drafted-you do not deserve much praise for all you did to crush the Rebellion certainly. Such will be the kind of (colloqys?) that's will take place-and keep me from all such-if you please. The next call I presume-will be- to organize companies Regiments and

Brigades of young women for Home Guards-as the able men will all be gone. I suppose you would then enlist- command a Company in that case-I should like to be General commanding such a Brigade-would certainly have you for my Assistant-Adjutant General and Chief of Staff. Such an Army would certainly be a grand affair-would eclipse the Grand Army of the West or of the Potomac now in the field. Ha! ha! ha! I think I can see such an Army in Camp- what a worse than Babel-did you ever hear such a clatter and clash of tongues- could an officer even be heard giving Command? We would then be obliged to revise the present Army Regulations-and increase the daily allowance of rations-not that they would eat anymore & but then they are so very wasteful!!

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Well, I am had off for Chat this morning so I will stop writing for a while-in hopes of something new- strange and startling occurring in the" natural course of human events." For the present I am-what I alwas am-McKinney, August 8th and as hot as it can possibly get. Have waited until to day in hopes of some letters or news of some kind-had no letters or news-will have to close this sheet out in some way and send it- barren as it is. It is now so bad I cannot think to any advantage- even to warm for good nonsense-so I am in a poor condition-so (indite?) a letter. I wrote one to Cousin Emma this morning before it got quite so oppressive-I labored very hard on it- and as a natural consequence-after severe mental labor. I am now almost postrated. Besides- since I wrote heres. I have eaten a tremendous dinner of hard bread and Coffee-feel rather stupid from the effects. But it is no use-I never was expert at making excuses-just have to let the matter go without further explanations. If this letter does not suit you-just send me word by return of mail. I received a letter from Emma last night-suppose she is with you now- having an immense sight of fun-notwithstanding there is war in the land. Adux.

Nune et semper-

(signed)

WM McK.inney