

so many men, but that is nothing compared with the army stores, tents, etc. The Irish Brigade are the best off. They occupy the log huts in the rear of the battery, on the point, which the rebels built.

They have warm dry places to sleep & everything comfortable. I had quite a long talk with some of the 69th N.Y. the other evening. They expect to move out, & up the road, in a very few days. I don't know how much you hear in N.Y. about our movements.

We don't see any papers, or hear any news down here. Have you heard of Gen. McClellan's narrow escape the other night? One of the farmers here offered to lead him to a place from which he could observe the enemy without being seen. He only had his body guard with him, & they had gone about three miles when McClellan halted, not liking the looks of things. I was

On board steamer Achilles
Shipping Co. Va.
April 15th/62

My Dear Mother

It is a week to day since I wrote to you - it hardly seems worth while to write now for there is no chance of mailing our letters until we leave this place, & as yet we have received no orders. I gave my last letter to Capt. Wargram of the steamer "Rescue" to mail for me. I hope he did not forget it.

I wrote to you on Tuesday morning and in the afternoon we rec^d written orders to take eight barges & four schooners in tow & to bring them here. It was snowing heavily at the time so we anchored just above Alexandria, & started again the next morning. We arrived here on Friday afternoon, about 4 P.M. & reported to the Lt. Gov. & have been lying here since

waiting his orders. When we first got here the "Crowsmith," "Elm City," "C. Vanderbilt," "John Brooks," "Cotton," "Sea Shore," "R. S. Spaulding," & a dozen other boats were all lying here, but they all started for Alexandria the next day for more troops. We are but some five miles from Yorktown, & I think the fight here will be the heaviest of the war. Friday afternoon the firing in that direction was thick & heavy, but since then it has been more quiet. McClellan himself is here & it is said has surrounded the rebels some sixty thousand strong, so that they cannot get away. Gen. Franklin arrived last night, & his whole division will be here tomorrow. I think the fight will be harder than any one at first expected. Our gun boats have gone some ways up the York River, & when the time comes will be ready to cooperate

with the land forces. I hope we shall be ordered up the Potomac river before we leave, & in that case it will be but a short walk over to the battlefield. I went out some ten miles towards Yorktown on Sunday, but I dare not leave the boat for long, lest she should be ordered away. The woods here are filled with soldiers. They have cleared away the under brush, & are cutting down the trees to build roads. I wish some of my abolition friends at the North, who grumbled so much about the "slowness" of our army, could see what it really is to move one hundred thousand men! There is an unbroken line of wagons reaching from the camp here out to head quarters, - a line some four miles long, & yet it is as much as they can do to keep the troops supplied with provisions from day to day. It takes some little time to move

ordered. The Capt says they were all sent home. The "Maryland" had some trouble at the Navy Yard, - she wanted some repairs & they refused to do them - told the Captain his mouth was up & he might go home. He could not get home, & could not get any body to mend his boiler, so he telegraphed for the owners.

They came on & between them they talked the Commodore over, & she will be rechartered as soon as the work is finished. The large expensive boats will probably be dismissed this week, but they may want the rest of us all summer. There is no telling.

I shall keep this open until I have a chance to mail it, for I may want to add something more.

Give my love to Aunt Latha & all at home & believe me

Your loving son
Appleton.

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just as well he did, for half a mile further on was an ambush of five hundred men. The guide was court-martialed, & hung that night. The weather here is perfectly lovely to say, - it has been very bad ever since I have been down here, and now I hope we are to have a change. I shall have a

very extensive acquaintance among "canalers", "longshoremen", "lightermen", steamboat Captains, pilots, etc. by the time I get home. It may be of some use if I am going into the shipping business, but they are not very profitable acquaintances in any other point of view. Col. Ingalls is here some

where. I have been trying to find him for several days, but such a busy man never was. I will get that certificate for father as soon as I can, but I hope he has received

it by this time. I am very glad that the Achilles has such a good name, for they are having some trouble with several of the boats.

The captain was put under arrest on Sunday for refusing to obey orders, & several have been threatened with the same unless they did better. They know by this time, that we always have steam up & are always ready. One of the Dr. M.'s agents came on board yesterday, & wanted us to go & help a schooner which was ashore.

He stayed on board & took supper with us, & ^{we} were just starting for the schooner, when we saw that the boats already with her had got her off. So we had all the credit, & none of the work. I wrote out his report for him, & here is a copy of it. I went in to the office this morning, & they will

remember it —

Shipping Pt. Va.

Apr 14/62

Lieut. Col. Ingalls.

Dr. M. & A.D.C.

Sir

The steamer Achilles, Captain Andrew Hennessy, was ready & willing to tow off the schooner or loaded with horses, the "Rover" ran on shore.

Yrs respect —

Moses Lyon

Master & Pilot of the " "

Several of the boats have been dismissed, but what ones I cannot say. They were at Fort Mifflin when the Merrimac came out, & instead of helping to tow the sailing vessels out of danger, they ran up behind the fort & would not come out, even when