

the Monitor. I need not say his answer was "Yes, most certainly."

I had the boat lowered & we started for the "Cheerbox." The Col. was in full uniform, & as I <sup>would be the case,</sup> knew we were received with great politeness by the officer of the deck.

We were on board at least an hour, & went all over the craft.

He showed us through the engine room, tower, & officers quarters.

I stood in the same place Lieut. Worden did when he was wounded, & no one would imagine from looking at her from the outside, that the pilot inside could see so much going on around.

When we went into the tower we had the whole principle of the manner in which the guns worked, explained to us, saw the wrought iron shots, & had quite a talk with the gunner.

On board Sir Achilles  
Fortress Monroe  
Sunday eve. May 4<sup>th</sup> 1862.

Dear Father

These last two days have been rather eventful ones, & to-night promises to beat them all.

I shall have to commence back when I left off, in my last letter to Mother, ~~so~~ I shall get everything mixed up. I had two hours

sleep on Friday afternoon, & so did not feel at all sleepy the first part of the night. It was quite late when I got through writing, & I laid down just as I was, & slept until Two A.M. Saturday morning.

A voice on deck woke me, & I went up & found the boat in the thickest kind of a fog off Cherry Point Light. We could not see ten

yards, so we anchored our tow & held on until Four Am. By that time it was daylight & we started again & got to Fortiers Monroe about 8 Am. All the vessels anchored below the Fort & we went alongside the "John Farnum", & took off Col. Mix & his Staff & landed them up at the dock. Capt. Andrew & I went on shore, & looked round a little, bought some N. Y. papers & got all the news we could, & then returned to the Achilles. In a few minutes the Col. came down with the news that the Robert Morris, Maryland, Whittier, & his other ships, who were ordered to report to him, had cast off their tows & gone to Ship Point. All of the ships had the same orders given to them at Alexandria, as we had.

We were all placed under the command of Col. Mix (3<sup>d</sup> N. Y. Cavalry) & were

to proceed to Cape Henry with our tows, & as much further as he (the Col.) directed. On our return we were all ordered to report to Col. Ingalls at Ship Pt. As the orders were verbal however, the R. Morris & others, took advantage of it to leave their vessels here, & then reported at Ship Pt. that they had been ordered to do so.

Of course Col. Ingalls knew nothing to the contrary. They thus expected to escape being sent to Hatteras.

We were the only boat who obeyed orders. Col. Mix as soon as he came on board, made a requisition upon Gen. Wool for the above boats, stating that they had disobeyed their orders, etc. He sent his adjutant up to headquarters with the communication, & while waiting a reply, I asked him if he would not like to go on board

lians & myself. Having so large a party, & but few accommodations, rather upset our plans.

Of course Capt. Andrew & I gave up our room to Col. Mix, & as many of the rest as could get in. After we got through playing cards, I went up on deck, & not feeling at all sleepy, watched the firing for a long time. It was a beautiful sight. - First we could see the flash of the gun, then hear the report, & before the echoes died away, we could see the shell burst, & the second report was sometimes even louder than the first. Towards morning the firing dwindled down to an occasional shot, & I went in to the Pilot house & wrapped myself up in a couple of over coats, & slept like a top until ~~about~~ <sup>daylight</sup> about four o'clock the firing

8.  
Then we went outside again, & saw where every shot struck. There is one dent of two & a half inches made by a hundred pound rifled shell, on the outside of the tower. I can tell you about it, much better than I can write a description, so for the present I shall let her be. While we were standing on the deck talking to the officers, the adjutant came off with Gen. Woods reply. "As the vessels were at Ship Pt. he must refer us to Gen. Mac Allen". We returned to the Achilles & at 3 P.M. started for Ship Pt. We had Col. Mix, Major Lewis, Dr. Palmer, the adjutant, & six or eight Captains & Lieutenants (all of the 3<sup>d</sup> A. G.) on board, & of course it was just like a pleasure party going up. We got to Ship Pt. at 5 P.M. while the heaviest cannon-

ading I have yet heard was going on up at Yorktown. We could see the shells bursting in the air, & over the camps, & hear every gun that was fired. We came to anchor in the mouth of Pocasin river, & took the small boat & went up Chesapeake's Creek to Col. Ingalls headquarters. The first man we saw was Gov. Sprague of R. I. He came up & spoke to Col. Mix, & we left them talking, while the rest of us walked out to the camps. Duryea's Tomars (5<sup>th</sup> A. G.) are there, & were engaged in landing two immense mortars, - each weighing two & a half tons. They were both sent out to our lines while we were there.

The whole scene looked more like war than anything I have yet seen. Every few minutes an orderly would gallop up - "Gen. Porter's orders - hurry up those heavy guns."

"Requisition from Gen. Sedgewick for Forage." or something of the sort. Guards were stationed everywhere, but our party being all in uniform, except myself, we went where we pleased. If we had had but time we should have gone all the way out to our batteries, but it was getting late & we returned to the boat. Col. Mix arranged with Ingalls, to have the boats sent down to Fortress Monroe again, to report to him there. Col. Ingalls also told me, that we would receive written orders from Sr. R. Santell, here at Old Point. I rowed all the way back to the boat (some four miles) with one of the crew, & so got an hour's good exercise.

We lay at Ship Pt. all night, it being then too dark to start. We played Whist all the evening, - the Major & Dr. vs. Capt. Will-

coal passer) used to be a baker,  
& we have put him in as cook,  
& turned the cabin boy into the  
fire room. To-morrow I shall  
get a "contractand" for cabin boy,  
& general help, & we shall get  
on very much better with Gen.  
B. Talbot's Eq out of the way.

He went to Baltimore in the  
boat tonight. About half past  
one to day while I was writing  
a letter I heard some one say  
"Look at the signal officer!"  
I went out & saw him waving  
to the Rip Raps, - looked up  
towards Sewells Pt. & there  
was the Merrimack coming  
down. She steamed out in  
full view, & stayed in sight  
for some three hours, but  
kept up close to Sewells Pt.  
all the time. With the glass,  
I could see her very plainly.

9.  
commenced again, & this time  
the rattle of small arms could  
be heard very plainly. We left  
there at five o'clock this morn-  
ing, & got in to Hampton Roads  
at 7 A.M. We went alongside  
the "John Farnum", & Capt. Andrew,  
Hopkins, & myself, took break-  
fast with the Col. & his officers.

About 8 o'clock we all landed, & the  
boat went to the coal dock for  
a supply of that article.

Capt. Andrew & I went up & got  
a barrel of potatoes & a ham,  
& then he went back & I kept on  
up the street. I hadn't gone  
ten steps before I met an old  
friend - Charley Keith, - he was  
a school mate of mine at the Scotts.

He is now a Lieut. of artillery  
& is bound to Hatteras with our  
fleet. After parting from him  
I went up to see Major Jones. He

was out, but I met a couple of other friends in the office; - one, Lieut. Gilbert of the Signal Corps, now stationed within the fort, & the other Lieut. Burton of the 1<sup>st</sup> Del. While I was there the news came of the evacuation of Yorktown. It seems that we have taken 200 guns, stores, etc., & that the rebels have fallen back about five miles, on the entrenchments & batteries above.

The great fear seems to be that they will attack either McClellan or Banks, before the junction of those two bodies is made. If they defeat McClellan, & then march right upon Washington, it may be that they will capture the city. I think if they try that game however, that we have men enough there to check their advance until

McClellan gets up to them. There is no use surmising however, for by the time you receive this, you will know everything through the newspapers. When I left the office of the Provost Marshal, I went over to see Eugene De Jimsey, & then inside the Fort. The birds are so tame that one can almost walk over them; - the roses are all in full bloom; - the lilacs all out, & the whole place inside looks like a garden.

I went back to the boat at noon & found the Cook had run off. I hope to Heaven you have not paid his mother the money due him for the month of Apr.

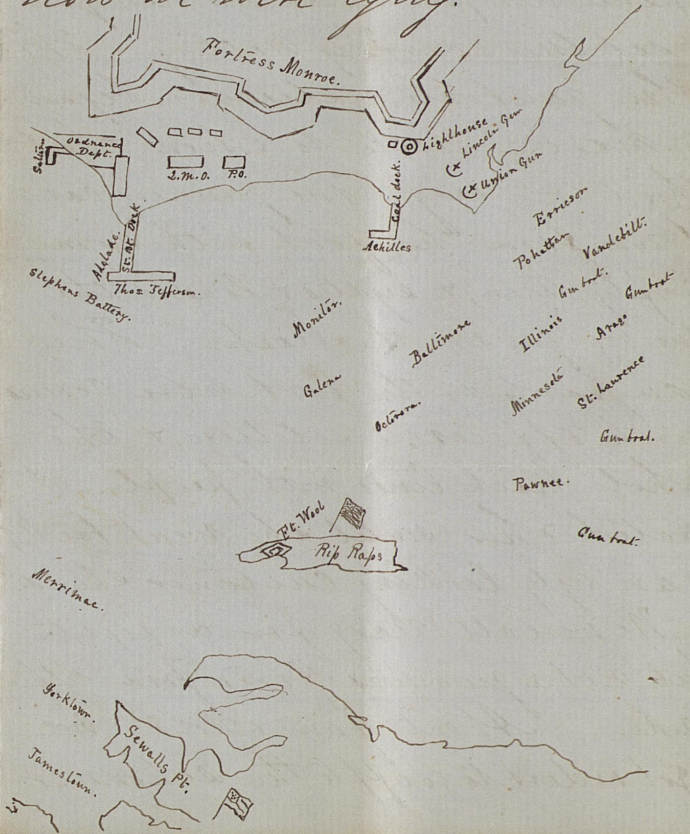
Andrew & I started to find him, or to get someone in his place. In neither of which were we successful. John King (the man we engaged at Alexandria as

About 6 o'clock a boat from the Stephens Battery came alongside with orders from Commodore Goldsborough to get out of the channel & move further in shore under the fort. The officer in charge came on board & stayed quite a long time.

He told us that Gen. Wool had almost positive information that an attempt to run the blockade here was to be made tonight. The Merrimac, Yorktown, Jamestown, & half a dozen others were all at Craney Island ready to come out. He told us that the channel must be left clear for the gunboats to run up behind, while the Galena, Monitor & headed them off in front. The Baltimore (Capt. Fernan) is to be the first vessel to try & run her down. There are half a

13.

She was covered with men & had a black flag forward, & the Stars & Bars aft. Here is a map which although drawn from memory, & therefore not exact, will still show you how we were lying.

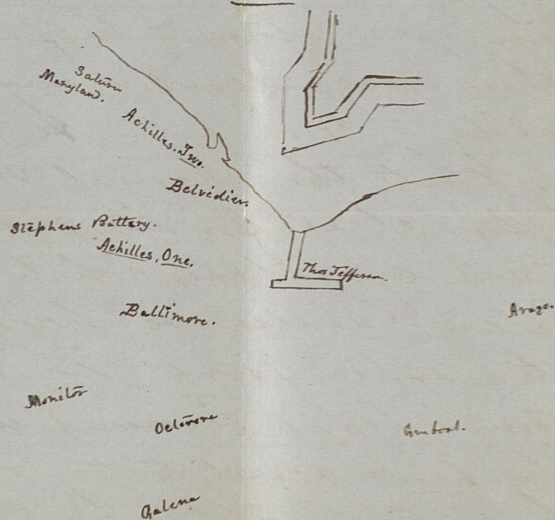


She had two gunboats with her, although they kept rather inside the Point. As soon as they were seen when the Monitor & Palena steamed a little more into the channel, the Octōron got under way, opened her ports, ran out her guns, & set the boarding netting. The other gunboats, & steamers, began to move a little to show that they were ready. The gunners came down from the fort with some fifty men, & sighted & loaded the two big guns, on the beach. The ramparts of the fort were covered with officers, & soldiers, & the whole beach lined with people. I watched her until she went back, & an ugly looking customer she is.

We were all ready for a fight, but not a gun was fired from either side. About four o'clock we got orders to go off to the schooner

John Farnum, lying just astern of the Vanderbilt. When we got there we found Col. Mix had decided not to go out tonight, & wished us to tow him up inside of Hampton Bar, where he could land his horses, & rest them for the coming voyage.

We brought him up to the St. Pt. dock, & then got a small tug to take him over the bar. We went ahead & anchored in the place marked "One"





with us on our way down to Hatteras.  
We shall make him as comfort-  
able as may be, & I don't doubt but  
what we shall have a pleasant  
time. We shall get written orders  
from the Lt. In. here, before we  
sail. There are sixteen ves-  
sels going down, of which we  
take four, the "Saturn", four,  
the "Maryland" four, & the  
"John Farron" four. We are  
to be the flag ship, & the other  
have orders to follow us. We  
shall not start without a good  
westerly wind, & can then make  
the trip in about 15 hours.

We may be detained there a short  
time, but I expect to be back  
here by the 10<sup>th</sup> inst. Will  
write again soon. Best love  
to Mother & all at home.

Affectingly  
Appleton.

17.  
dozen more however who have  
the same orders, in case the B.  
fails. If she gets into action  
with the Monitor, or gets past  
the iron boats, the Vanderbilt  
stands ready to run her down.

Her object now is to get out, &  
get up to York river. Of course  
she will have to fight her  
way through. As soon as the  
officer had gone, we hoove up  
anchor, & ran in to place "two".

We are in a first rate place  
to see the whole affair, and  
are out of the way. I do hope  
she will come, but I'm afraid  
we shall be disappointed again,  
~~for~~ it is nearly midnight, &  
not a sound from the dispatch  
boats as yet. I am going up  
into the Pilot house now &  
will finish this tomorrow  
morning.

Monday, May 5<sup>th</sup>/62.

I had my watch last night for nothing. Either Gen. Wool's "positive information," was from some "intelligent contraband," or else the rebels changed their plans.

A S. E. storm set in about one o'clock A.M. with thick weather & that may have upset the first arrangements. I have seen Col. Mix this morning & he expects to get off tomorrow afternoon if it is pleasant.

We shall thus be here at least a day longer, & so may see the "Virginia" again. I went on shore this morning & picked up a "contraband" for cabin boy. He is a smart looking fellow, with a most aristocratic name - "Stepford Le Edwards."

He is only known as "Step." I have engaged to give him \$10 per month, & if

he behaves himself, & stays with us any time, I told him we would see about giving him \$12. I shall be able to tell more about him when he has been on board a few weeks.

This morning King - the man we depended upon as cook, was taken sick. His foot troubles him a good deal, & although he is still up & around, can do but little. Col. Mix promised to give us a cook however, as soon as he hears of our fix, so we shall be much better off than we have yet been.

We have one more man on board it is true, but as we pay the cook, & cabin boy, ~~but~~ each, but about half what our other cook got, the extra expense will be but little.

The Col. is going to leave his schooner & take up his quarters