

∇ land some of his stores there
& then return to N.O. with the
reminders, ∇ take possession
of the Ordnance Office there.

Baton Rouge was then in rebel
hands, ∇ we had first to take
possession of the town. Of
course I was then free to go
when I pleased, so I took a boat
& went off to the United States, to
see Capt. Fulton of that ship.

Found him rather blue, as the
troops he had on board had been
with him 30 days, ∇ had eaten
him out of house & home. He
left Fortuin Monroe on the 4th
inst. in company with the rest
of the fleet, the Thames being
among them. That night they
had a very severe storm ∇ he said
he thought that several of the
smaller vessels were lost, ∇

On board North Star
Baton Rouge, La.
Dec. 15th 1862

My Dear Mother

I don't know as I shall
ever be able to tell you all ~~that~~ has
happened since I last wrote, for we
have been so busy in different
ways, that I have hardly kept a
memoranda. I think I wrote
last while coming up the river on
our way to New Orleans. We got
to Algiers (about 3 miles below
the city) at 5.30 P.M. on Sunday,
& anchored there for the night.

The other transports came
up soon after ∇ anchored along
side ∇ in the river, but close enough
for the soldiers to talk across.

Of course they were cheering each
other, ∇ every body, ∇ everything, all
the evening, ∇ when Gen Banks

His staff entered a small steamer
to go up to the city, it was a per-
fect yell. Our band was playing
all the evening & we had a very jolly
time. Rumors of our arrival, &
that Banks was to succeed But-
ler, ~~he~~ soon reached the city, &
in half an hour fires were
blazing in a good many of the
streets, & rockets & Roman candles,
& blue lights were sent up from
a dozen different places. They
all hate Butler so that any
thing which tended to raise
their hopes of his removal,
was enough to cause great re-
joicing. The next day, Monday
we left Algier at 8.30 A.M. &
steamed up to the city, & ^{went along} ~~landed~~
^{at} the levee foot of St. Joseph's
street. The orders were that
the Regiment should land & march
up through the city, but they

were countermanded about 11
A.M. & we were ordered to remain
on board until further orders. The
levee was crowded with people
& quite a number bought out
the stock of the Orange women, &
threw them on board. Such a
scrambling for Oranges you never
saw, as took place among the
soldiers. Having been on salt junk
& hard tack for so long they were
truly grateful. The Oranges were
splendid ones, large & sweet, such
as they sell in N.Y. for 6 & 10 cts.
each. The price here was 2
for 5 cts. - the only cheap thing
I have yet seen! In the after-
noon Lieut. Hill returned from
Head Quarters, & told me that we
should go up the river in the
morning, instead of remaining
in N.O. That he was ordered to
establish a depot at Baton Rouge

were taken to the upper deck
& drilled the rest of the day. I wrote
letters for Lt. Hill in morning, &
in afternoon borrowed a rifle & joined
a squad for drill in loading & firing.
Kept at it until dark, & then
went down in my state room &
packed two days rations into the
pockets of my overcoat, filled my
flask, & loaded my revolver.

In the evening we had divine ser-
vice in the cabin, & all the Regt.
attended. After the service the
General Order was read, assigning
the staff &c to different commands,
& forbidding all plundering of the
city &c, under pain of death. The
Col. then made a short address say-
ing he hoped all both officers and
men, would do their duty the next
day if called on to meet the enemy.

Among them ^{5.} the Thames.
He saw her hoist a signal
of distress & tore down for
her, but the Ericsson was
nearer & got there first. He
could not tell what was the
matter, but it was his impres-
sion that she foundered, with
all on board. I found after-
wards up in the city, that he
was wrong, & that all the
transports were safe except
the M. Sandford, which was
wrecked on the Florida coast.

I hope Father has heard from
Capt. Arny before this however.
I don't know whether she was
wrecked here, or to Charleston,
for some vessels went to each
place. I don't doubt that she
is all right & safe somewhere.
The Mary Boardman very nearly
foundered coming down, but got

here all safe eventually. In the evening I went off with some of the officers of the 41st Mass. to see the city. We went up to the St. Charles Hotel, which was opened but a few days before, & there we found nearly everybody - Gen Banks included.

I met another of the officers of the 41st a Captain, who had cousins & friends living here, & joining him went up to call on them. Met some very pretty young ladies, - success through the throng, & one of them sang "My Maryland" for me, and then "The Bonnie Blue Flag" & "Missouri" & another song of her own composition, in praise of the Southern Confed. of course.

We had some Champagne, & a very pleasant evening, & then returned on board the North Star.

The next morning ^{Tuesday} at 11 A.M. we left St. Charles for Baton Rouge. Gen. Grover was on board who had charge of the expedition & it was soon announced that we were to have a fight, & probably a severe one. I spoke to Lt. Hill & finding that we should not land the stores until we had complete possession of the place, I got his permission to Volunteer for the fight. I offered my services to Col. Chickering of the 41st Mass. as Volunteer Aid, or Assistant Quartermaster, & was accepted. Borrowed a sword & belt from Capt. Swift of the Reg^t (who had two) & reported myself as ready for duty. Ammunition was distributed to the men, - 40 rounds per man, in the morning, & then the different companies

which the rebels can advance from Fort Hudson, - at which point they have now a large force, so we must of necessity see the first & heaviest of the fight.

The field is covered with relics of the old fight. Pieces of shells, broken bayonets, bullets, &c, and in the grave yard, which is just to the right of our line, the grave stones are chipped & broken by the balls. I send you a map of the ground as near as I can draw it. I found a drakey in the town & he said the rebels were intending to attack us at first, when they saw us coming up the river, but concluded when the first shot was fired by the Essex, that it was time for them to leave.

There were about 200 men of Boyds Battalion, one Company

9.
as would probably be the case. We anchored that night at Donaldsonville to wait for the other transports. It is situated 55 miles below Baton Rouge, on the left bank, & ~~is~~ ^{was} our further outpost.

We got under way again in the night, & at 8.45 the next morning (yesterday) were off Baton Rouge, followed closely by the other transports.

The Iron clad gunboat Essex was lying off the town & the flag ship Richmond, & several other gunboats. At 9.15 AM the first gun was fired from the Essex & it was followed by a dozen or more from her, & one of the gunboats stationed below. The shells burst in & near a piece of woods from which we soon saw the rebels running. No reply being made from

the town the transports were run up to the bank & the troops landed.

The North Star ran alongside the Essex, & we passed over the decks of the latter vessel to the shore. Our line was formed immediately, as we were in expectation of an immediate attack. Sentries & pickets were thrown out, & troops landed below & sent up into the town. Very soon down came an order from Gen Grover for the 41st to march up into the Arsenal yard & take possession of the entrenchments. We were drawn up therefore facing the North East our right resting on a long shed, & the left upon the bank of the river.

A line of guards was then established & the men allowed about two hours to rest. At 2 P.M. the officers call was sounded, & as soon as we got together opposite the center of the line the Col. Chickering told us that he

had received word from Gen Grover twice within 15 minutes, that he (Gen Grover) was expecting an attack that night, & had received what he considered reliable information, from his scouts, that 15,000 men were marching upon the works. As we mustered about 4,000 all told, & had no artillery, it looked as if we should have hot work. Col. Chickering went on to say that we had been given the key of the whole position to defend, & that the safety of the rest depended in a great measure upon the conduct of the 41st. He cautioned the line officers to have their men in readiness to fall into line at a moment's notice, & then dismissed us. We are upon the old battle field of Baton Rouge, & hold the entrenchments where Gen William was killed last August, or September. Our works command the only road by

I took advantage of it to send off to the North Star for some more Whisky, for my flask had been emptied during the day. My men could not get it however so I went off to the United States which was lying close to the river bank & took supper with Capt. Fulton & got a bottle of Whisky from him. It was confounded cold working in the line, & my feet were wet through, so I thought I would prevent instead of curing a chill. I got back in a few minutes & reported the 161st Regt. on our left, & 22nd Maine on our right - the latter supported by the 131st N.Y. I have not got the map very correct but it will give you some idea of where we are. It is a lovely position

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of artillery & 9 guns, & one company of cavalry in the town when we arrived. They all left for Fort Hudson where the main force is.

At 2.30 P.M. the Col. gave me orders to order a detail of 25 men to bring the tents up from the beach & have them pitched. Part of the regiment was then drilling, but that was stopped, & the whole force set to work on the camp. As soon as the tents were up the men were ordered into the trenches to strengthen the works. The ditch was made broader & deeper & the breastwork higher & wider. We found a quantity of logs a little way up the line, & they were carried down & used in the fortification.

They were live oak & dreadfully heavy - it took 25-30 men to lift each one of them. At 6 o'clock I was sent down to the river to find

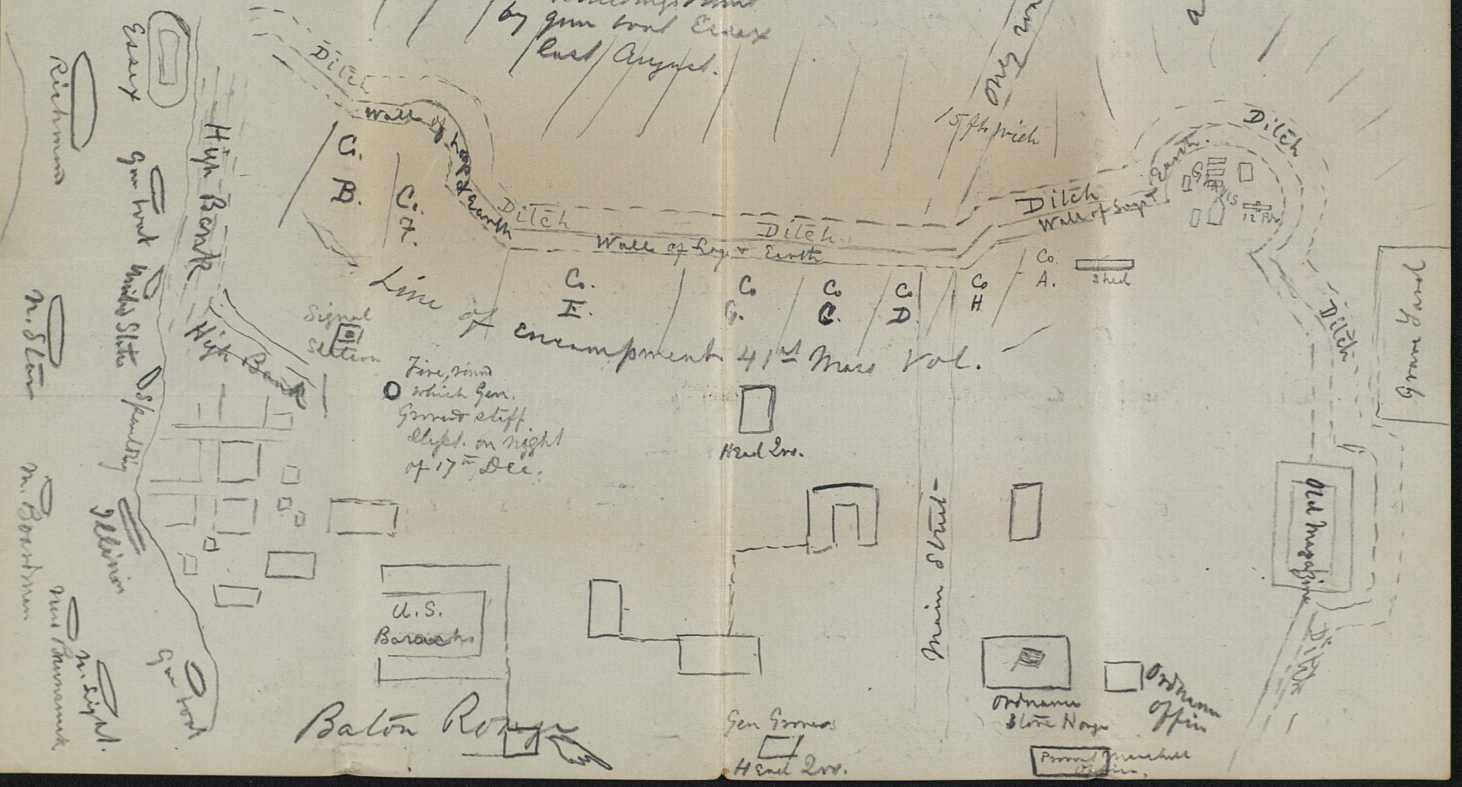
out what Regt. was to support
 our left Flank & cover the left
 flank. (I forgot to say that at
 4 P.M. we had been condensed
 in half the space we occupied
 at first, & so left room for another
 Regiment between us & the river)

Building built
 by gun boat crew
 and Artillery.

Swamps
 at present nearly dry

15 ft wide
 Ditch made

Swamps
 at present nearly dry



now. I shall send this to New Orleans
by the North Star, when she goes,
which will be in a few days. I
expect now to return there my-
self early next week, & shall re-
main there until the move is
made for Vicksburg, when we
shall probably go up the river
again. This soldiering is perfectly
awful on the clothes & in a pair
you will have to send me another
suit to fall back on. I think
the best for real use would per-
haps be, pants & vest of the
light blue, (same as private
over only little better quality)
& an unders^{sack} coat of dark
blue, made to button to the neck,
the same as I now have on.
I want the Ordnance Button

to the Col. & went down to Gen
 Gorman Head Is. to St. Hill. Got
 breakfast on board the North Star, when
 I commenced the letter. Stayed
 there until 1 P.M. & then sent my
 baggage on shore & followed it. Found
 St. Hill had obtained an officer
 & storehouse, which you will
 see down on the map. Got a lot
 of ducks at work sniping them
 out & bringing up store &c, & have
 been busy with them all the after-
 noon. It is now about 6 P.M.
 & as soon as I get through this I
 shall eat my supper, which is
 now in my pocket in the shape
 of 6 crackers, & hard ones at that.
 I shall go down to see Col. Chickering
 tonight & shall sleep in his tent, to
 be on hand in case of an attack
 tonight. The men have been at
 work all day & it would take a
 very heavy force to win the works

on the ground with my overcoat over me. We had come ashore in light marching order without blankets.

Our line was rather full, being the Col. Lt. Col. Major, Adjutant, 2 Ensigns, Chaplain, 3 Surgeons & myself, beside 4 Ordnance.

Our hopes of an attack were all dashed to the ground, for the night passed very quietly. Of course there was a little firing from the pickets, but it came to nothing. This morning the line was formed at 4.30

& I left the men waiting stone at 6. It was very cold & chilling last night & I have seen pleasant nights for camping out, but it's all in the day work. I rec^d word this morn. from Lt. Hill that he would be busy in unloading stone, & wanted me, so I reported

to defend, for it is on a height, & the approach must be made over the Causeway & swamps in front, which is much lower.

Our rifles sweep the road for half a mile & with light artillery we could hold the place against ten times our force.

As soon as I had reported our supporting force, the Colonel sent me up to Gen. Groves Head Quarters, with a message. I went up to the house where he was in the afternoon, & found he had moved, & then came a chase

in the dark for half an hour after him. Every few minutes I would be stopped by a sentry, & then the ground was very uneven & the fields full of holes into which one kept tumbling all the time. At last I found him lying beside a camp fire

on the bank of the river with
his staff around him, & Lt. Hill
(who had volunteered for the
occasion as I had done) with
them. I delivered my message
& returned, & then was sent down
to the Provost Marshalls in
command of a party who
had captured a rebel just
outside the lines. He had a
loaded Enfield Rifle in his
hands & was a rough looking
customer. On my return I went
into the tent (Head Quarters) &
taking off my sword & belt threw
myself on the bed & was asleep
in a minute. I slept 10 minutes
& was woken by the Adjutant who
wished me to take another party
with some more prisoners (4 in
number) down to the Provost Mar-
shalls. I was the only one who knew
the country & knew where the guns

honor was. Then I went with Lt.
Col. West over to the river where
they had by that time landed
two 12. lbs guns & 2 Rifled Howitz-
ers. The guns were manned by
men of mass men from the
Richmond & Essex, for we had
no troops who knew how to
handle them. After that I went
into the trenches, & worked there
for some little time, with the men,
& then being called by the Col. I ac-
companied him round the lines
to see how things were. I went
out some way beyond our first
line of pickets, but hearing the
drums on the other side of camp,
I returned. It proved to be nothing more
or less. The order were to sleep on
our arms & be ready to form at
a moment's notice, should the enemy
attack. At 1 Am. I turned in
again. That is I threw myself

on both ~~parts~~ of vest [^] ✓ I wish
 I had had them put on the ones
 I ~~last~~ now am wearing. I wonder
 if there is any way that you could
 send me 18 gilt Ordnance buttons
 for the vest (9 for each) I should
 like them very much & they would
 be very useful. The Ordnance
 button is 2 cannon crossed
 & a bomb shell with flames bursting
 out. If you can't get those try

& send me the gilt Infantry button

Remember that I only want these
 for my vest, so they will be small
 size. Lint Hill is ~~now~~ the
 same scrape as myself in
 respect to clothes, for thinking
 that we should be stationed in
 some out of the way place he
 only brought two suits - one thick
 & one thin. As we are to be in
 New Orleans the greater part of
 the winter we shall each have to send

home for more, - as to buying
them ~~here~~ in N. O. - it would take
six times the amount it would
in the North - everything is so high.

I shall receive my salary the
last of this month, & will forward the
greater part of it to Father. I shall
need some here, but will only keep
what is absolutely necessary. I may
have to board in N. O. & in that case shall
find some French families & so be
learning French while attending to
my regular duties. We shall see as
to that hereafter. I want very much to hear
from home & learn how you all are, but
I suppose I must wait patiently until the
year has expired. Don't be the least afraid
that I shall get hurt up here, for I will
take good care of myself, & I've no notion
of coming home sick, or without my proper
quantity of arms & life. Give lots of love to
Father & all & write often to

Your loving son

Appleton

Adams Express now runs to N. O. I believe

Wednesday Dec 19th 1862

Last night passed without any attack, but what with picket firing, false alarms, the guard calls, & drums, I can't say I got much sleep to speak of. It seemed to me as if Reviller was beating all night. It is now 6 AM & I have opened the office & am writing at my desk which is standing on a trunk. I shall get to work at some of the papers to day & try to recover the lost ground of the last two weeks. I am writing in great coat, cap, & gloves for it is frightfully cold & we have not got fired with our fires yet. The morning & evening are very damp chilly & disagreeable while in the middle of the day it is sometimes quite hot.

I shall try to make some arrangement to day to start my ration regularly & have them cooked - living on hard bread exclusively, although very well

For a time, don't answer for more
than a few days. I have an unlim-
ited number of Contrabands to work
for me - men, women & children,
& it will be hard if I can't find a
~~good~~ cook among them. My position
here is very different from what I
suffered - I have a much higher
place & a more important one,
& so far it has been very pleasant.

lots of excitement, & plenty to do,
since we landed. I should like to
see an account of our doings in the
N.Y. Herald; but we only get N.Y. papers
once in 10 days or so in N. Orleans, & then
have to pay 15 or 20 cts each for them.

I shall write again very soon
Affectionately
App

P.S. The "Pocahontas" is here. Arrived yes-
terday with stores & horses.
My direction is same as before. - Care Capt. R.M.

Hill, Charles