

Transcript of Letter from W.B. Rice to Mrs. Harriet L. Rand July 31, 1861

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fort Albany Arelington Heights  
Headquarters first Regt Mass Volns Co D  
July 31th 1861

Dear Sister

Yours letter was duely Received and was glad to hear from you. I think I have not wrote since I have bin at this fort. And so I will improve the Opertinity to send you A line to let you no that I am well And hope you are enjoying the same blesing Which is the greatest blesing on Earth. I have no news to write you this time.

I think I have wrote you since wee had our batles with the Rebels for I doe not like to write About it it was bad Enough to see it Louisa

Wee Are in camp in this fort for A while it is a new Place and it is not done yet So wee shall (have) some thing to due hear for some time to come to git it finished. I have bin out cutting wood for several dayes Past (to) block the way so that the Enemy cannot come up in Our Rear. Wee have got a good Range at them when they come as Jef Davis Sayes he is Ageing to take Washington. Wee are in Virginia about three miles from Washington just across the Potomac River this fort is on Arelington Heights.

the weather is Very hot hear it seems as if they would drop down it is so hot. Wee have not had any fighting since the 18th and 19th at Bulls Run

since I wrote this your kind Letter came at hand and was Very glad to hear from you and to hear of your good health and All of the folks. Louisa if they ere sick I want you to write me as soon as it hapens

you wanted to no how I was fareing Out hear in Reguard to Eatables we get that that is comfortable and so is our beds Wee lay on the Ground some times and some times I laye on the Soft Side of a Pine Board And use a log of wood for a Pillow and when I can not git this I take my Boots off and Lay my head on them and I find them much Beterish Good. who sayes that this is not a good way to make a feller tough I tell you

I have not much time to spear Just now so I must close for this time Please give my love to fathers family tell them that I am as tuff as a Brick and to John family I cant write any news this time

Pleas excuse this bad Writing for I doe not have very good chance to Write I use my plate for a table and a stone for a chair. I thank you for that Posey you sent to me. I shall send that Back to Mass. And let the folks see it. With love to all Tell Joseph I will write him next Good Bye

From your Brother

W.E. Rice