

Camp near Corinth Miss^y 1st 1862

Dear Mother & Sisters

As there is a man going to
start leave Corinth for Home I thought I would
take the opportunity to write a few lines to the dear
ones at home to let them know how I am &
but I will commence at the beginning & from the
time I left you all in the St. Louis,
After bidding you all good bye up stairs I hurried
down to the door where the carriage was waiting for
me, I jumped in drove up to the St. Charles sent
the boy up stairs for my basket of provisions
which Sally had prepared for me after getting
the basket I drove up to the depot where a
train was preparing for departure, after waiting
there for some two hours, without much excitement going
on down came the Confederates in a body, with their
tents and camp equipage, ready for leaving the
city, I was then told that none but the Confederates
could leave the city as those cars which made
a great many passengers get off though I did
not move a peg but stand perfectly quiet up in
my corner, and was not discomfited until it was
too late to put me off, well after that I got along
very well until we got to camp near where the
Confederates stopped and where I stoped for
thirty six ^{hours} during which time I lived with
Mr. Jones, (so I did not reduce my own small stock
of provisions) I saw Brother Reid, several times
though he was kept busy, and the second
day after arriving there we left Camp near

or rather I left it in the company of a band of
Texans but now came my troubles, when the
Conductor came around for the fare I had
none, He said I ought to have a pass, as well
as transportation, and as I had neither I did
not know hardly what to do, I showed him
my furloughs which answered for my pass, but
as for the fare, I had none, He said it was \$4½
I had \$9.00 in city skin plaster, and He would
not take that for He said it was not good
So he had to go without any pay at all.

When I got up to camp I had to wait there
twenty four hours on account of there not being
a train in at the time, and while succeeding around
there I fell in with Pecos Edwards, who
was on his way to the City, I told him how
affairs were there and he concluded to stop
at camp mood to see Mr. Hall, before he
traveled himself in the City, after parting with Pecos
I went with a young man in the Orleans Guard
a very nice young fellow He was too, well we went
up in the town and found it a delightful
place there was a large girl school up there
and we happened up around the school as
it was dismissed, and you have no idea
what a quantity of young ladies there were and
very pretty they were too, and before I left the
town I was the owner of a very handsome
loggett, after leaving there we both
experienced the same trouble with the conductor
as I had on the former occasion, but at length
I arrived in camp, the sixth day after

leaving New Orleans.

So now I am in the same place I was three weeks ago. (in my tent) it is now getting dark so I will close for the present and finish tomorrow morning.

I again pick up my pencil, and will now try to finish the letter that I commenced last evening, though I am not certain of its ever reaching you as Mr. Wiley, is not certain that he will get off. Our Regt, go out to work on the fortifications every day and you have no idea how strong we are fortifying this place, we are expecting an attack every day as the enemy are now on this side of Montbray, distance some eight miles. The report of the Crescent Regiment having been taken prisoners is groundless, they did go out to quarters but returned after staying a week, to give room to another Regt which was sent out to relieve them.

There are a great many sick in camp though a great many that are sick and do not turn out to drill or work would turn out to fight if necessity required it. Louis Vincent is among the sickest portion of them. He has gone to the hospital.

The fall of New Orleans has greatly discouraged the army especially those from Missouri, Arkansas, Texas, & Louisiana as these states are completely cut off from their soldiers as soon as the federals get possession of the Miss. river.

I must now bid you all good bye
so with myeto love to all I remain your
truly aff Son & Brother
E. J. Mudge

Remember me kindly to the Miss Ann and the
rest of the family and tell the former I will
write the first opportunity, I would write now but
I have no paper and do not expect this
letter ever to reach New Orleans

E. J. Mudge

To Mother & Sisters