

This is a copy of a letter sent by T.(Thomas) L. Bonjour to his father, Fredrick A. Bonjour from Atlanta, GA just after the Union Army had captured Atlanta. The Bonjour family was from Galena (Jo Daviess) County, Illinois, the same hometown as that of General U.S. Grant. Frederick and his wife Julia came to Galena, IL from Neuchatel, Switzerland with five children, and proceeded to have 16 more for a total of 21, 16 of which survived to adulthood. Thomas L. was the oldest, having been born in 1842 or 1843. He came to America with his family in 1852. He enlisted in Co.F of the 96th Illinois regiment in August of 1862. His native language was French and he had been in America just ten years, therefore his English in the letter and his spelling are far from perfect.

Mr.Bonjour saw action in several battles, among them were Chicamauga, Lookout Mountain, Kenesaw, Nashville, Franklin, Jonesboro, and through to Atlanta.

LETTER FROM T. L. BONJOUR DURING THE CIVIL WAR

Atlanta, Georgia

Dear Father

I will tell you something about the capture of Atlanta.

We captured Macon Railroad too quick for them and they had all their ammunnition in the city and a good many trains of cars and artillery also.

They Rebels blowed up 80 cars of ammunnition and all their iron works and a good many of their big guns were spiked and some was buried in the forts we discovered a good many of them.

They destroyed a lot of property. I presume that we captured about two thousand Rebels.

There is three RailRoads runs in Atlanta. One is the Richmond RailRoad and the other one is the Macon Railroad and the other one is the Montgomery. The other is the Chatenooga. I tell you that it was a big victory.

I suppose that we talk about something else. I heard that we was going to get paid before long. When we get paid we will get 8 months pay that will be \$110 and that will be a good little pile. I will send you all I can spare. That will not be any less than \$100 I think. Father I want you to fix it so I can get it some time. I know that you need it very well you can get the use of it. And I will try to send you all I can. I tell you that you and Charley Sack can fix it all right.

If there should be anything happen to me then you have it for you and my Brothers and Sisters. I want you to write me a big letter when you get this one. I guess this one will please you I think.

I received a letter from Robert Steel this morning. He say that his folks are all well and doing well also. He says that he thinks that there will be some fighting in Galena when the election comes out. I hope when that comes about there will be some of us there to help the Union Party. I tell you

that we would make them get out of the way. I hope they may draft them fellows.

When you write tell me all the particulars about the crops.

Tell Fritz that I wrote him a letter the other day.

Tell Mother that I am in good health at present time and that I send her my best love and best wishes.

Well Father only 11 months more to stay in the Service. And then God I will a free man again. Soldiering is a very hard life I tell you sir.

I suppose I must close my letter for this time. I send you my best respects and to all the family and inquiring friends also. I am your and truly Son T. L. Bonjour. To his affectionate Father and Mother and Brothers and Sisters. So excuse me for this time.

Address as before if you please. So good bye.

S Write Soon.

Thomas L. Bonjour enlisted in the Civil War on August 14, 1862.

He was discharged on June 11, 1865.

The above letter was written from Atlanta after the capture of the city which was September 1. 1864.

If his letter was written sometime in September of 1864, he would have been in the Army for 25 months, and he states that he has eleven months left to serve. This would total up to three years. But he would not have served all eleven months because of the end of the war, and his discharge in June of 1865.

Atlanta Georgia
Dear Father

I will tell you some things
a few hours. The capture of
~~the railroad~~
Western Railroad to speak
for them and the fact all there
ammunition in the city and
good many trains of cars and
artillery in also.

They Rebels blowed up so cars
of ammunition and all there
~~ammunition~~
of there a big yard was Spike
and some was bare in the
parts we discovered a good
many of them.

They destroyed a lot of property
I presume that we captured
about two thousand Rebels

There is three Rail Roads run
in Atlanta one is the Richmond
Rail Road and the other one is the
Maken Railroad and the other
one is the Montgomery. The other
is the Chattahoochee, I tell you
that it was a big robbery.

I suppose that we talk a hard
some thing else. I heard that we
was going to get paid before
long. when we get paid we
will get 8 months pay that
will be ~~500~~ \$110. well that will
be a good little pile. I will send
you all I can spare that will
not be any less than \$100. I think
Father I want you to feed it so
I can get it some time. I know
that you need it very well you
can get the use of it and I will
try to send you all I can.

I tell you that you and Charley
Sack can fix it all right.

If there were to be any thing kept from me then you have it for you and my Brother and Sisters. I would you to write me a big letter when you get this one I guess this one will please you I think.

I received a letter from Robert Steel this morning He says that is folk are all well and a doing well also He says that he thinks that there will be some fighting in Galena when the faction come out. I hope when that come that there will be some of you up there to help the union party I tell you that we would make them get out of they way. I hope no man drap them fellow.

When you write tell me all the news about the Coops.

Tell Fritz that I will send him
a letter the after day
tell Mother that I have in
my good health at present time
and that I send her my best
love and best wishes.

My Father is only 11 months
more in the service.
And then God I will a free
man again. I feel my life a very
hard life I tell you Sir.

I suppose I must close
my letter for this time.

I send you my best respects
and to all the family and
inquiring friends also.

I am your and truly
son J. S. Banjour. So has
in passionate Father and
Mother and Brothers and Sisters
So excuse me for this time.

Address has before, if you
Please. So good bye.
I write soon

JAN 27

140463

1891

Write nothing above this line.

(9-960-a.)

MILITARY SERVICE.

NAME OF SOLDIER:

Howard P. Boynton

Howard P. Boynton

BU.

Bureau of Pensions

Howard P. Boynton

Serial 267

D 96 211 Aug

SIR,

It is alleged that the above-named man enlisted

1865 and served as a

in the 21st Regt. Ill. Inf.

also as a

and was discharged at

on

from the

War Department,

Record and Pension Division

JAN 27 1891

COMMISSIONER OF PENSIONS

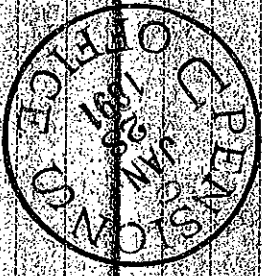
Respectfully returned to the

Howard P. Boynton

mentioned in the preceding indorsement, has enrolled

in the 21st Regt. Ill. Inf. and

in the 21st Regt. Ill. Inf. 1865



No. of prior claim

None

The War Department will please furnish an official statement in this case, showing date of enrollment and date and mode of termination of service.

Respectfully,

Sam J. Ransom

Commissioner

WAR DEPARTMENT, RECORD AND PENSION DIVISION

BY AUTHORITY OF THE SECRETARY OF WAR:

J. C. Cleveland

Captain and Asst. Surgeon, U. S. Army