

Confederate States of America, Camp Bartow,

Near Manassas Aug 28th 1861

My own Dear Puss

After quite a hard days work. I am at liesure for a few hours or untill  $9\frac{1}{2}$  oclock at which hours we "bold soger boys,, are under the necessity of putting out lights and going to bed, and I know of no way of employing my time half so agreeably as in writing to you. I rec<sup>d</sup> your favour of the 16th on yesterday morning and I can assure you it gave me great pleasure to hear from you. I do really thank for answering so promptly and sincerely wish that all my correspondents in Kentucky were as considerate as you are. but such is not the case. Puss I must confess that I never knew untill now how neccessary you are to my happiness and how fondly I loved you. but such I believe is always the case we never fully appreciate each other untill the parting hour comes with a crushing weight. but let us bear up under every sorrow and remember that our country,s cause is our couse and her destiny our destiny and if she falls let us fall with her

I was greatly surprised to hear that one of my letters has been published and you are perfectly right in supposing it was not intended for publication. the subject was a dinner given by our Mess and I doubt not it was the most complete mess that was ever heard of.& the only merit the letter had was that it was strictly true. I am sorry that you were not with us on the day we had the fine denner spoken of. but as I am fast becoming an accomplished cook. I will when I return home give a big dinner and everything shall be cooked a. la. St Charles; you and Miss Amanda shall ~~have~~ both have a ticket. and I will put up the same bill of fare that we had at Camp Lee. leaving out the fried Cabbags

You complain that I did not give you a picture of Camp life. and as it was an oversight in me I will do so now. Well at 5 AM Reville beats and in 5 minutes

thereafter the boys fall into line to answer to Roll call every one who has ever slept himself or from any other cause except sickness fails to answer to the call is marked for extra duty and has extra duty to perform the next thing is breakfast after which comes company drill at 8 oclk. Guard Mounting at  $9\frac{1}{2}$  after company drill which lasts untill Guard mounting we or rather the company has no more drilling untill  $3\frac{1}{2}$  P. M. at which hour Regimental drill commences and lasts two of the longest hours imaginable

After Regimental drill is over we have a  $\frac{1}{2}$  an hour, s rest before goingg on dress parade. which is only for a show and lasts only a few minutes. this ends the days work. with the exception of cooking supper which is not an easy job by any means at  $9\frac{1}{2}$  oclk PM comes the order, "lights out" and it must be obeyed. the time between supper and  $9\frac{1}{2}$  o,clk is spent outside the tents if the weather is fair and is the time for singing songs and indulging in merriment of various kinds. the above is a day in Camp. and every day is very much the same. I am Orderly Sergeant and am busy all the time. and as to my health I havnt time to get sick my health has Consequently been first rate and in fact our company have not had a serious case of sickness since leaving home. this morning we had two men reported on our sick list. but there is nothing much the matter with them. I am perfectly astonished to hear that the unionists in Kentucky are indignant at the idea of having to pay taxes to Lincoln,s Government. as I supposed they would be glad of the opportunity of furnishing means for carrying on this unholy war as for furnishing men. I. mever have believed they would volunteer to fight the South. I saw from yesterdays papers that it is thought Gov Magoffin was about to issue a proclamation similar to that of Gov Jackson of MO inviting assistance from the Confederate States and I only fear the report is too good to be true. I am in hopes it is true. for if it is our Regiment will in all probability be ordered home to defend our own State

I Rec<sup>d</sup> several letters from home a few days since and among them one from Mr Helm in which he says it is currently reported at home that I had deserted from

the army and was pursued and arrested and subjected to most horrible punishments imaginable. of course. I am unable to say who the author is and scarcely consider the report worth noticing. for my friends all know that a baser fabrication was never originated and you will all know what to think of the person who would take advantage of my absence to start such a report

I have no news of importance to communicate. there was a fight at falls church yesterday in which the enemy were repulsed. with the loss of 100men our loss is comparatively small being only thirty. I do not know how soon we may be called upon to face the music and when we are called on, I hope you may not be disappointed in our fighting. I was quite agreeably surprised ~~XXXXXX~~ to meet with your Cousin Ben Noel on last sunday he is a member of the Lone Star Rifles of Galveston and arrived here on the Saturday before I saw him The Texas Camp is only a few hundred yards from ours and we visit each other quite frequently. he is very well & looks every inch a soldier

I must now close, I will write every opportunity and you must do likewise good bys for the present

~~Yrs~~ Yrs affectionately Jos U Morgan