Thomas L. Evans letter to his parents, brother, and sister from on board the Hiawatha, January 12, 1863

Thomas L. Evans
On Board the Manhattan
Monday Jan 12 1869

Dear Parents, Brothers & Sisters,

I sit down to inform you that I am safe. We are about 30 miles up the Arkansas River. Here we found a rebel fort and several thousand men. On Saturday we commenced with the gunboats. Yesterday at noon we had all things ready and commenced a general land and artillery attack for an hour. The fire and the shell fell among us & whirled over us thick as fast-ruling several
of our regt. but leaving us our colun, safe.
At the end of an hour or two we advanced upon their rifle pits amid a shower of shot but we marched on & on now & now by & by sun the white flag floated over their works & we had captured all. Then arose the shout, arose
The top of our regt. is 9 nine killed 380 wounded but not one flanked.
Our company came off well.
I think they did by helping a little in advance and
They shot over us perhaps they fortunately missed us. Our casualties are
Private Gilbert Beom of
Richwood Arm badly fractured but not amputated.
Sergeant Painter slightly on the shin with a steel ball. That is all.
We gained a desperately contested field but sickness is serving us worse. Simon Moore & Thomas Wheeler are very sick. We buried Missy Perry on the 9th. Our O Reg. is camped on the field a half mile from here & I must go immediately back as I am the only Officerable to be with our Com.
So I quit now & write more tomorrow or soon as I can.
Thomas
On board Hiawatha,

Monday, Jan. 12, 1863.

Dear Parents, Brothers & Sisters:

I sit down to inform you that I am safe.

We are about 30 miles up the Arkansas River. Here we found a rebel fort and several thousand men. We commenced with the gun boats yesterday at noon. We had all things ready and commenced a general land and naval attack. For an hour, artillery was the principal fire and the shell fell among us and whizzed over us think and fast killing several of our Reg. but leaving our Com. safe.

At the end of an hour or two, we advanced upon their rifle pits amid a shower of shot but we marched on and an hour by sun, the White Flag floated over their works and we had captured all. Then arose the shouts.

The loss of our Reg. is nine killed and 30 wounded but not one flinched. Our company came off well. I think it was by keeping a little in advance and they shot over us. Perhaps they fortunately missed us. Our casualties are Private Gilbert, Beam of Richwood, arm badly fractured but not amputated, Sergeant Painter, slightly on the shin with a spent ball, that is all.

We gained a desperately contested field but sickness is serving us worse. Simon Moore and Thomas Wheeler are very sick. We buried Jessy Perry on the 9th. Our Reg. is camped on the field a half mile from here and I must go immediately back as I am the only Officer able to be with our Com., so I quit now and write more tomorrow or soon as I can.

Thomas.