Thomas L. Evans letter to his parents from Youngs Point, January 25, 1863

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Dear Parents,

Two days ago I wrote on board the boat, but we are now in camp again the first time we have had our tents pitched out since we left Memphis more than a month ago. Since then five of our men have died and very many are left on the boat sick some of which will go to the hospital here. We have seen plenty of hard times and it does us all good to get in camp again. I think
we will get along
fine again.
We are camped on the
Louisiana side of the river
in sight of Vicksburg
if we do not get in it
for sometime yet.
They are going back out
a ditch across as to leave Vicksburg away
from the river the
same ditch we heard
of long ago.
We captured a ferry
boat with some prisoners
This morning.
The mail closes now.
Write often.
Good by.
To All
O. Thomas

And I just made my dinner
on sweet potatoes a bit
tanner of the bottom pot and
a bitter taste would almost
Dear Parents:

Two days ago I wrote on board the boat but we are in camp again, the first time we have had our tents pitched since we left Memphis, more than a month ago. Since then, five of our Com. have died and very many are left on board the boat sick some of which will go to Memphis and some to the Hospital here. We have seen pretty hard times and it does us all good to get in camp again, and I think we will get along fine again. We are camped on the Louisana side of the river in sight of Vicksburg if we do not get in it for some time yet.

They are very busy cutting a ditch across so as to leave Vicksburg away from the river. The same ditch we heard of long ago. We captured a ferry boat with some prisoners this morning.

The mail closes now. Write often, Goodby,

Thomas.

To all.

P.S. I just made my dinner on sweet potatoes and salt eaten off the bottom of a tin cup, the better who would want?