Thomas L. Evans letter to his parents from Camp near Vicksburg, August 16, 1863

Thomas L. Evans

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Dear Parents,

I received your kind letter two or three days ago and now must answer it as a week has passed since I last wrote. This is Sunday morning and it is extremely warm and it has been unusually warm for the last four or five days. It has been threatening rain but has thus far failed. I think if we could once get a good rain it would be pleasant.

There has been nothing new here for the past week excepting that our men, who are unable for duty are receiving sick furlough for thirty days. James Sheare and] Stibart (the latter of Richwood) have theirs and are on the boat for home. The boat I suppose will start to day. I think they will both be able for duty by the time they return. We have three or four more I think will get off sometime this week. It does me a great deal of good to see them getting off home.

Camp near Vicksburg
Aug 16th, 1863.
where they may get well and amid the enjoyment of their friends, society, and be able to return again to their countries service. S. H. Shearer promised to call on you.

Agrippa Turner has got about well again and seems to be getting along fine. So he will not get home at present. There is no doubt this division constitutes a part of an expedition which is fitting out to suppose to strike Mobile. It has at least to play an important part in striking the next last and fatal blow.

The troops now here have become tolerably well acclimated and appear to be healthier now than for the last two months. If you may expect my next from some point down the river though we may remain here weeks yet. Considering my own inclination (without reference to my friends or the members of my Co.) I rather like the idea of going down the river. But considering all things I of course am not anxious yet, go as contented as to a meal of victuals for I believe that is the field for duty now and I have no inclination to be idle while there is work to do and shall enter upon any duty with high hopes that I may be spared to return home at the close of this struggle. Much love to all. The others...
We have had a nice rain this afternoon and it is cool and pleasant. My health is excellent.

Camp near Vicksburg.

Aug. 16th, 1863.

Dear Parents:

I received your kind letter two or three days ago and now must answer it as a week has passed since I last wrote. This is Sunday morning and is extremely warm and it has been unusually warm for the last four or five days. It has been threatening rain but has thus far failed. I think if we could once get a good rain, it would be pleasanter.

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Quilla Turner has got about well again and seems to be getting along fine. So he will not get home at present. There is no doubt this division constitutes a part of an expedition which is fitting out I suppose to strike Mobile. It has been at least to play an important part in striking the next, last and fatal blow.

The troops now here have become tolerably well acclimated and appear to be healthier now than for the last two months. You may expect my next from some point down the river though we may remain here weeks yet. Considering my own inclination (without reference to my friends or the members of my Co) I rather like the idea of going down the river but considering all things, of course I am not anxious, yet go as
contented as to a meal's victuals for I believe that is the field of duty now and I have no inclination to be idle while there is work to do and shall enter upon any duty with high hopes that I may be spared to return home at the close of this struggle.

Much love to all,

Thomas.