Thomas L. Evans letter to his father from Port Cavallo, Texas, January 9, 1864

Thomas L. Evans

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Dear Father,

It has been some two weeks since I wrote home & still longer since I heard from you. We are still in the same camp we occupied when I wrote to Penrose. But we have had a great change in the weather since then. On the evening of Dec. 19th there came up a heavy snowstorm and we have had it quite cold ever since which accounts for my delay in writing as it was too cold for me to write by my tent without fire. I have been no stove and cannot get one here. However I have got along very well as there are two or three stoves among the officers and I have made it convenient to spend the most of my time around them. The boys however have not fared so well and have suffered a good deal with the cold. The weather is so much colder than we expected to find here that we were not very well prepared for it. It is unusually cold too for this climate, some nights the ice has frozen half inch thick and we have no wood here scarcely enough to cook our rations with.

There are quite a number of troops camped here perhaps ten thousand and I think we are likely to remain here sometime perhaps until spring which will be here soon in a month or two.
so, I cannot keep anything about what our next movement will be or where there are any 'Jeb's' but spring will no doubt see us on the move in some direction. We are now fortifying this place so as to be able to repel any attack the 'Jeb's' may make on us. However, I don't think they are likely to attack us but it is best always to be ready for them.

The boys captured at Grand Portaux in the battle of Nov. 8, have part of them been exchanged and the rest paroled and are at New Orleans but none of them have come up with the regiment yet. The boys are all well and getting along very well each time. Chearer who is very much troubled with the pneumonia if I fear it will bother him now until warm weather.

The wind has fell and it is quite pleasant to stay however it is cloudy and there is a prospect of rain, after which we may expect it pleasanter again. I have received but one letter from home since the fight. They must yet mis carried. Write of ten.

Will love to one and all I remain your affectionate son,

Thos. A.

P.S. Direct to

T.P. Evans

New Orleans, La.

1st Co. R. C. C. 45th Div. 1st A. C.
Jan. 11th. Since I commenced this, I received a letter from Rose and one from Sallie mailed Dec. 17. It is quite pleasant this morning.

Port Cavallo, Texas.

Jan. 9, 1864.

Dear Father:

It has been some two weeks since I wrote home and still longer since I heard from you. We are still in the same camp we occupied when I wrote to Penrose but we have had a great change in the weather since then.

On the evening of Dec. 30th, there came up a heavy Northerner and we have had it quite cold ever since which accounts for my delay in writing and it has been too cold for me to write in my tent without fire and I have no stove and cannot get one here, however, I have got along very well as there are two or three stoves among the officers and I have made it convenient to spend the most of my time around them.

The boys however, have not fared so well and have suffered a good deal with the cold. The weather is so much colder than we expected to find here that we were not very well prepared for it. It is unusually cold too for this climate, some nights ice has frozen half inch thick and we have no wood scarcely enough to cook our ration with.

There are quite a number of troops camped here - perhaps ten thousand and I think we are likely to remain here sometime, perhaps until Spring which will be here now in a month or so. I cannot guess anything about what our next movement will be or where there are any "Rebs" but Spring will no doubt see us on the move in some direction. We are now fortifying this place so as to be able to repel any attack the "rebs" may make on us, however, don't think they are likely to attack us but it is best always to be ready for them.
The boys who were captured at Grand Coteau in the battle of Nov. 3, have part of them been exchanged and the rest paroled and are at New Orleans but none of them have come up with the Regiment yet. The boys are all well and getting along very well except James Shearer who is very much troubled with the rheumatism and I fear it will bother him now until warm weather.

The wind has fell and it is quite pleasant to-day, however, it is cloudy and there is a prospect of rain after which we may expect it pleasant again. I have received but one letter from home since the fight. They must get miscarried. Write oftener.

With love to one and all, I remain,

Your affectionate son,

Thomas.

P.S. Direct to

T.L. Evans,

New Orleans, La.

Lt. Co. R. 96, O.V.I. 4th Div. 13 A.C.