

4-10-1865

Thomas L. Evans letter to his parents near Blakely, Alabama, April 10, 1865

Thomas L. Evans

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Comp near Blakey Ala.
Mon. Apr. 10th. 65.

Dear Parents,

I have time again to pen a few lines to let you know that I am still well and prospering. I wrote to Sallie on the 5th.

Last evening, We received a mail again but not a letter for me from home. Quill got a letter of March 17th in which I learn you were all well at that time,

On the 9th we bombarded fort Spanish heavily and our skirmishers advanced and captured about two hundred prisoners and that night we found the Rebs were evacuating, but I knew nothing of it until I was waked up yesterday morning and told that the fort was in our possession. I ate my breakfast and went over to the fort and found it occupied by our troops and that not only the forts but fifteen or twenty pieces of

artillery and two or three hundred prisoners
has fallen into our hands. The works
were quite strong and were made dangerous
to approach by having torpedoes planted all
around them. These torpedoes consist of
large shells buried in the ground with
a percussion cap placed upon them in
such a way that stepping upon them causes
them to explode thus dealing almost certain
death to those who step on them or are near them
when they explode. It is horribly barbarous
and I can think of nothing which would be
too severe to use in retaliating. Up to this time
I have felt like dealing honorably even with
Rebels but the last spark ~~was~~ of such feeling
is gone. The whole army here now feels
like nothing could be unjust in dealing with
such unscrupulous traitors. I cannot express my feeling
toward them it is such as I have never before felt.

On returning to camp from visiting the Fort
yesterday I found the Regt under marching orders
and by noon we were on the move.

We marched several miles and about five
o'clock just to our left and perhaps a mile

from us the cannonading and musketry was very heavy. following the cannonading the musketry mingled with cheering continued perhaps fifteen minutes when not a shot was to be heard and the cheering was ten times more furious, This convinced us that our forces under Gen Steel (which had been besieging Blakey while we were Fort Spanish) had made an assault upon the rebel works and captured them.

A thousand rumors were rife in camp but we could learn nothing certain except that the Reb. Forts were ours, - I have been down to the Forts to day and think ^{they} following about the truth of the matter. The works were charged by the 2^d Div. of our corps. (19th) and one Div. of colored troops. The captures were the Forts, three or four thousand prisoners, thirty or forty pieces of artillery & three Gun Boats. Among the captures are said to be two Brigadiers & one Maj. Gen. The loss among our white troops was about five hundred killed & wounded, & very many of them by the torpedoes which are planted thick everywhere, I have not learned the loss in the colored Div.

The boys are generally in pretty good health but are much worn by the severe labors for the past three weeks, as part of the time they have been out duty night & day. We are resting to day but are under orders to be ready to move at any moment with five days cooked rations, and perhaps will be marching along before night. I hope not though for the men surely need to rest a day or two. Yesterday we heard that Richmond is in possession of our forces and notwithstanding we have heard it a thousand times before I believe it since I heard Sherman had reached Goldsboro.

It seems to me the war is coming to a speedy close, everything moves so prosperously. This place is said to be the key to Mobile and I think if our Fleet can move the torpedoes from the Bay so as to move up it surely is if not we may have yet to march around a hundred miles to get to the city. Well is well.

When I returned from visiting the Forts this morning I learned the mail leaves at one o'clock & though much interrupted I have succeeded in scribbling so much & so with much love to all

Good By
S. Thomas

P.S. Direct to
Capt Co. C. 96th O.O.S.
1st Brig 3rd Div. 19th C.A.C.
Via New Orleans.

Camp near Bbakely, Ala.

Mon. Apr. 10th, 65.

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On returning to camp from visiting the Fort yesterday, I found the Regt. under marching orders and by noon we were in the move. We marched several miles and about five o'clock

just to our left and perhaps a mile from us, the cannonading and musketry was very heavy following the cannonading mingled with cheering continued perhaps fifteen minutes when not a shot was to be heard and the cheering was ten times more furious. This convinced us that our forces under Gen. Steell (which had been besieging Blakely while we were Fort Spanish) had made an assault upon the rebel works and captured them. A thousand rumors were rife in camp but we could learn nothing certain except that the Reb. Forts were ours. I have been down to the Forts to-day and think the following about the truth of the matter. The works were charged by the 2nd Div. of our Corps (15th) and one Div. of colored troops. The captures were the Forts, three or four thousand prisoners, thirty or forty pieces of artillery and three Gun Boats. Among the captured are said to be two Brigadiers and one Maj. Gen. The loss among our white troops was about five hundred killed and wounded - very many of them by the torpedoes which are planted thick everywhere. I have not learned the loss in the colored Div. The boys generally, are in pretty good health but are much worn by the severe labors for the past three weeks as part of the time they have been on duty night and day. We are resting to-day but are under orders to be ready to move at any moment with five days rations and perhaps will be marching along before night. I hope not though for the men sorely need to rest a day or two. Yesterday we heard that Richmond was in possession of our forces and notwithstanding we have heard it a thousand times before, I believe it now for I have been expecting to hear of it's fall since I heard Sherman had reached Goldsboro. It seems to me the war is coming to a speedy close. Everything moves so prosperously. This place is said to be the key to

#3.

Mobile and I think if our fleet can move the torpedoes from the Bay so as to move up, it surely is, if not, we may have yet to march around a hundred miles to get to the city. Quill is well.

When I returned from visiting the Forts this morning, I learned the mail leaves at one o'clock and though much interrupted, I have succeeded in scribbling so much and now must close before the mail leaves, so with much love to all, Goodby,

Thomas.

P.S. Direct to

Capt. Co. ^{66th} 9th, O.V.I.

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1st. Brig. 3rd Div. 13th, A.C.

Via New Orleans.