

THE SERGEANT JEROME PEIRCE COLLECTION

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ENVELOPE



LETTER TRANSCRIPTION

Near Camp Nelson Ky 31st Oct 1863

My dearest wife,

Just a word once more before starting. Have had one of our old fashioned storms again. Cold rain, terribly muddy etc.

According to military fashion yesterday P.M. took my first lesson as teamster. Helped take care of a six mule team to Camp N[elson] and loaded up for Knoxville. Rained all the time and in spite of rubber blanket got wet through to the skin. Got back after dark etc. etc. Managed to make a bed on top of the barrels and wrapped up and managed to 'keep cool' till about 3 o'clk this a.m. when [I] got up and warmed up and dried off and as usual came out all right.

Have just returned from the convalescent camp at Camp N[elson] where some of the 36th arrived two days ago. Found none of Co. "H" but some of Co. "B" and others I know. A sad sight but they will get some better after awhile. Some were left at 'Crab Orchard' but moved to a better place. They ought to be furloughed and so have a chance to recruit.

The mud is still bad but the sun is out and warm again.

The talk is that we start this P.M. We may and if not, no doubt, shall be on our way tomorrow. Coffee is preparing for dinner and I can say but a few words today and when I shall have another chance to mail back I can't tell. We shall get very tired, be out till dark often and I may not have even a chance to write so don't be worried. I shall take all possible care of myself. Such is the way we soldiers are able to get transportation. If I get safely to the Regt. 'twill be like home as much as any can [be] away from you.

Am feeling perfectly well and hearty and shall have not [a] knapsack to lug and that is much.

Can't hear much news from the Regt. It is said they are towards Chattanooga but little is known I think. I hope we shall meet them at Knoxville.

Are you all well? and all the friends? How much I want to see the "old familiar" letters! I hope I shall not fail to see some when I get through.

I shall keep a few pieces of paper with me and will send you back something if possible.

Share this with the rest with love and regards to friends all remembering Mr. Salloway.

What can I say to Lulu? Not a day or hardly an hour passes but you and she are in mind and only such know how earnestly I pray that this war may soon close and reunite us all once more and so once more, with a kiss. Adieu from

Your ever loving husband
Jerome

This is the fourth [letter] since I left you or rather Boston.