



Camp Dodge Near
Suffolk Va.

May 9th 1869

Dear Wife

It has been nearly a week since I last wrote you but the reason is because we have been for three days past out in the country leveling down the fortifications which the rebels threw up and left and it being five miles out we did not come back to camp till last eve after finishing our part of the job so it has been impossible for me to write you till the present time. You no doubt have heard of the evacuation of this part of the world by the rebels, they left last Sunday night and since that time most of the troops have left here but as we are in the reserve brigade we will probably remain here for some time probably. No doubt Longstreet left here to reinforce Gen Lee as Gen Hooker had made an advance. We have all sorts of rumors here with regard to Hooker's operations, the last was that Hooker had retreated back across the river but I hope it is not true for a victory now is so much needed. The N.Y. papers speak