

Camp Butler, Newport News, Virginia -
Wednesday, July 10th 1861.

My dear wife:

Your letter of July 5th and 6th was rec'd last night. I was glad to receive it as I had not rec'd one for two or three days. It makes me feel bad to learn that you feel so anxious about us. I think there is really no danger now of an attack. The rebels have neither the force nor the inclination to do it. They have hardly made their appearance in this vicinity since those prisoners were taken. Some of Hawkins' regt. met with a company of them last Friday and killed at least two of them, but had to retreat as they were not in sufficient force to face them. The enemy retired leaving a field piece on the ground, but our men could not take it as they were harassed by the fire of the rebels from the woods and could only draw it by hand. The next morning eight companies went out to see what they could find, Maj. Worthen with three of ours, - that is of the N. Regt. The Bradford Company did not go. They saw nothing of importance. The particulars I have not written you before as I have already written them for Mr. M^r Indue and you will probably get them in the paper about the same time you get this. You want to know if I was out on our scouting expedition Sunday - nearly two weeks ago. I was out and we had a very good time. I got completely wet through with sweat, so that I had to change all my clothes and since then I have not seen