

(To)

Head quarters 4th Ft. Tol.

Camp Griffin Fairfax Co. Va. Jan 11th 1862

Dear Parents.

Saturday - rainy - muddy - mud -
no Drills except a short Co Drill
in firing which is quite an interesting
exercise - In these Drills we use blank Cartridges
which make all the noise we need and hear
no one. this looks quite warlike when done
by a whole Division in line of Battle - Some
fifty thousand men in two Ranks
firing by Co. by Rank or by file - or by Battalions
makes such a noise as was never heard in
old Ft. and then it is some excitement for
the men and wakes them up from Camp
Dullness and stupidity. We now Drill in
firing to use about twenty rounds of blank
Cartridge per Day - that is when we Drill
Rainy Days I study Tactics and post up
on Military - read the Papers write letters
and Smoke. I am a very hard smoker yet
induce a little by the advice of the Surgeon
as a preventive against Ague and other
Camp Diseases. and I think it a good
remedy for I notice the Smokers are generally
exempt from a certain class of Diseases