

Jan the 23 1863

Dear wife

I thought that  
I would try and send  
you a few lines to let you  
know wh[faded] I am [faded]  
what I have been a doing  
as near as I can find out  
we are at the preasant time  
about 15 miles above vicks-  
burg and well in all  
proberility try to take that  
place again we are on  
the [faded] at the preasant  
time but I think that  
we will land to day or  
to morrow we have had  
two prety hard fights  
since I wrote to you but  
I was very lucky I did

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not get hurt in either  
of them we got defeated  
at vicksburg but we made  
them pay for it up at  
the fort I shal not  
attempt to describe either  
of the Batles if I have  
the good luck to get home  
I will tell you all about  
them the reason I have  
not writen before I have  
not had a chance to write  
and I dont know as this  
will ever reach you  
some says that we are  
going to land here and  
stay till the fleet goes  
up to memphis after grants  
Army and I think that  
it will be the case  
thare is about 120 boats

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in the fleet gun boats  
and all we have pufferd  
some with the cold and  
we have been toweseld  
about a good call in  
general latly we have  
been raided and banged  
about a conciderable  
but it is all for the  
union or to give the  
officers a choice to spec-  
ulate I cant write much  
this time but I shall  
write the first chance I  
get I forgot to tell  
you that I had run  
across Mose Davis down  
here I have seen him  
several time since we  
left helena I expect  
that harve and Bill

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down here somewhars  
If we have the good  
luck to take vickburg  
I expect that we will  
stay here and spell but  
I would not be much  
surprised if we get an  
other defeat I believe that  
gen McLernard has the  
com this time I think  
that Steel had it before  
we have not got our  
pay yet nor thare aint  
much proberility of our  
geting for a while  
there is about 5 moths  
Due us the health  
of the army is not  
very good staying  
cooped up on the Boats  
is not very healtly

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I guess that I have  
writen most of the knews  
Some of the boys that was  
wonded at vicksburg will  
be apt to be at home  
I understand that [faded]  
and Lieu Pitzer have  
both gone home I  
dont know wheather John  
Runkle has gone home  
or not thare was some  
12 or 15 of co F wounded  
at vicksburg the 1<sup>th</sup> Iowa  
Batory did put loose a  
man they was very licky  
but I will close for  
this time and wait  
till I can get a  
chance to write with  
pen and ink I have

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no letters from you  
Since I left Heleny  
the Sesecc got our mail  
once the time they got  
the Blue wing but  
good bye for this time  
write as often as you  
can for al leter from home  
is lots of comfort to a  
man away down here in  
the wilderness From gB D  
To his wife C Davis