

copy

Fort Cascoke B Island
June 13th 1861

Dear Father & Mother

I have time ~~only~~ to write only a line by the Steamer going to Newbern within arrival at Portsmouth this morning & through me your kind letter & patinate favour of the 9th. In my most respects it reflects my views & especially

I was disappointed when ordered to this post. I am now however by Seniors command of all the forces here & also of the Fort I have been formally invested with the command by Genl. Croghan I have here now 4 Companies & Capt. Martens of City & Capt. Leiths & Spottan. We are also on the right of the 7 Regiment of Volunteers the post of honor. There is some comfort in this.

Most of my men 16 & in number have garrisoned this fort for the last two weeks. We return to Portsmouth on Monday & another company supplies our place. When we get into quarters again I will submit to the company a proposition to go in the regular service & go to Raleigh en route to Virginia.

I have some embarrassments connected with this subject. Mr. Rae kindly invited us to join his regiment. I did not feel that I could advise my men to do so. This last estimate is Confidential

I think you will agree with me in this. much in the
change of battle depends on the coolness of a commander &
his proper regard for his men. Now am I to avoid going
with Mr Rais Regiment if we join the regulars just now
this is our trouble, there is another. What is it? ^{Lieut} Thomas 2
& 3 ^{2nd} Lieuts are good officers reliable men. My first
Lieut is a loss to the whole company. Should the
Commander ever devolve on him every thing would
be ruined. I live in hope here that something may
occur to rid us of him, there is a time trouble
of less moment than this. Our tents are useless we
are not half equipped. Have no knapsacks belts or
pouches bayonet scabbards &c. In this light in
march in Raleigh I do not like to march
without equipments.

There is a still greater difficulty
for what I know of the sentiments of the company
not more I have feared or trust would ^{enter} the
the regular service. They would all be delighted
to be ordered off as volunteers. Your boys and
some others are anxious to go on almost
any terms. I will write you fully on Mon-
day. Keep the place open. Your proposition
is not answered. I simply tell you of
the difficulties in the way.

Yours in haste

J. Sparrow