

565
46
620

No. 14

On board the steamer "Imperial"
sailing down the Mississippi, 3 miles
above Island No. 10; 9 a.m. of June 9th/63

Dear Friends:

I sent you a letter
at Cairo yesterday the news in
that will doubtless surprise you a
little. We are getting a good ways
from N.Y. I suppose it will take
a long time for letters to come &
go so I & you must write & be patient.
We (11th) 55th Mass. Regts & Battery C.
Regular U.S. Artillery with all the
baggage & horses are on this boat
making a tremendous load it took
all day yesterday to get everything on
board we got started about 4 P.M.
& run only about a mile below
Columbus when the boat ran
aground & we did not get off

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No. 16

On board the steamer "Imperial" sailing down the Mississippi, 3 miles above Island No. 10; 9am.
Of June 9th/63

Dear Friends:

I sent you a letter at Cairo yesterday The news in that will doubtless surprise you a little. We are getting a good ways from NH. I suppose it will take a long time for letters to come & go so I & you must write the oftner

We (11th) & 5th Mass Regt's & Battery E Regular WP Artillery with all the baggag & horses are on this board making a tremendous load it took all day yesterday to get everything on board we got started about 6PM. & run only about a mile below Columbus when the boat run aground & we did not get off

still about daylight this morning
We are now going about 12 miles
an hour. We have now just come
along side Island No. 10 & are heaving
to to give an account of ourselves
to the Iron clad which lies at
anchor near the shore. The banks
on either side the river from 80 to
50 feet & almost perpendicular

On Island No. 10 we see the earthworks
on some of which are guns mounted.
Here is where Admiral Goot pounded
the rebels & Pope dug around them
forcing them to surrender (if I recollect
correctly) gaining thereby his reputation
& stars. The banks of the Mississippi
seem to be natural fortifications
& I wonder the rebels did not give
us more trouble here.

We have passed Island No. 10 & have
landed swung up to shore to take
in wood & while the negroes gang.

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till about daylight this morning We are now going about 12 miles an hour. We have now just come along ride Island No. 10 & are heaving too to give an account of ourselves to the Iron clad which lies at anchor near the shoar. The banks on either side the river from 30 to 40 feet & almost perpendicular On Island No. 10 we see the earthworks on some of which are guns mounted Here is where Admiral Foot founded the rebels & Pope dug around them forcing them to surrender (If I recollect correctly) gaining there by his reputation & stars. The banks of the Mississippi seem to to [sic.] be natural fortifications & I wonder the rebels did not give us more trouble here.

We have passed Island No 10 & have swung up to shoar to take in wood & while the negrow gang

of laborers were logging on board
the wood, we have been cutting
cypress bushes & ^{some} gum tree bark
on the Missouri shore, New Madrid
County. I send you a bit of cypress &
some gum tree bark, the boys
were busy cutting their names on
the trees while the boat stopped.

We are now moving slowly down
the river. While on shore I saw a
man who seemed to be posted
about this great movement.

I conclude he was not a Border
Buffian. From him I learned
that we are 95 miles from Cairo
105 to Memphis 505 to Vicksburg.
at the rate we are going now it
takes a fortnight to get there.

He says we shall go to near Vicksburg
sail up the Yazoo river & land some-
where about Vaines Bluff that Grant
is being rapidly reinforced a Division

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of laborers were lugging on board the wood, we have been cutting cypress bushes & sweet grain tree bark on the Missouri shoar, New Madrid County. I send you a bit of cypress & some gum tree bark, the boys were busy cutting their names on the trees while the boat stopped We are now moving slowly down the river While on shoar I saw a man who received to be posted about this great movement. I concluded he was not a Border Ruffian From him I learn that we are 95 miles from Cairo 165 to Memphis 565 to Vicksburg at the rate we are going now it take us a fortnight to get there He says we shall go to near Vicksburg sail up the Yazoo river & land somewhere about Haines? Bluff that Grant is being rapidly reinforced a Division

went down the river from Missouri
that large numbers of troops have
been leaving every point north of
V. for the last 10 days. I notice all
the people here know on the river
whom I have asked, feel confident
that Grant will bag Vicksburg & the
army therein. This man thinks Johnson
will get about 75,000 men & Grant
will have when all reinforcements
arrive 150,000. He says the country
back of Vicksburg is exceedingly rough
full of ravines ridges & knolls.

11. Ad. It is now raining very easily
& you would laugh to see the position
I am writing we have are on the upper
deck & have no shelter by the boat
Our Yankee ingenuity has been
racked to the utmost make us shelter
from the rain shelter tents & rubber
blankets are pinned nailed tacked
tied or hung over us or propped up
with sticks guns or bayonets Our
horses leak some & we stop up one
place to have it break out in another
place

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went down the river from Missouri that large numbers of troops have been leaving evry point north of V. for the last 10 days. I notic all the people here have on the rout whom I have asked, feel confident that Grant will bag Vicksburg & the army therein This man thinks Johnson will get about 75000 men & Grant will have when all reinforcements arrive 150000. He says the country back of Vicksburg is exceedingly rough, Full of ravines ridges & knolls

11AM It is now raining very easily & you would laugh to see the position I am writing we are on the upper deck & have no shelter by the boat Our Yankee ingenuity has been racked to the utmost make us shelter from the rain shelter tents & rubber blankets are pined nailed tacked tied or hung over us or propped up with sticks guns or bayonets our houses leak some & we stop up one place to have it break out in another place.