

Maryland heights  
July the 15eth 1864

Dear wife

P-115

I will now scribble a few lines to let you know that I am well We are at the same place that we was when I last wrote about two miles from Harpers Ferry up the Potomack on the east side of the river The rebels have all left these parts They lost here about two thousand in killed wounded & prisnors as near as I can find out Our forces lost but very few men The Rebel prisnors said they thought there was no soldiers here but hundred day men & they could soon whip them out but they said we must have all been vettrans & sharp shooters

July the 16eth

All quiet on the potomack We have got no mail here yet I hope we will today We think the rail road will be in running order in a few days to martinsburg We may be sent back there I dont think we will stay here long but we can never tell We may stay here our time & we may leave in an hour I am not particlar where we stay now Our time will soon be out, the 160 Reg is just getting back from Hagerstown Have been there after rations They say all is quiet on the road The Rebel forces that was engaged here in the last battels was supposed to be from twenty two to thirty thousand They said after (Wg DC ???) that a hundred thousand men could not take the place There is two forts on maryland hights each mountarted with six guns one howitser and two mortars Then there is fort Duncan & fort Sullivan all heavy guns & our Dutch Battery is here & an Indiana Battery & there is an one hundred pounder on the most commanding position on the hights The gunners at the forts know the distance to all the surrounding hills & can set there guns to shoot verry accurativly (Sunday July the 17th Latest dispatch all quiet on the potomack) as far as my telegraphic knollledge runs Anyhow I received a letter from Jo Moore last evening The first letter I have got since I left martinsburg It was mailed on the sixth and directed to martinsburg It is verry dry and warm here Has been but very little rain since we came here It is verry poor land around here On our way here we passed over the battle ground of gettsburg We came through Shepadrs Town and Sharpsburg throug Sandyhook and around here It was after night when we came through Sandyhook Harpers ferry is on the other side of the river from us So is Boliver The Rebels were there when we passed the ferry and fired on us but it was dark and they shot to high and did not hurt nobody We will know in the corce of an other day when we will go We may start to Hagerstown to morrow There is a waggon train going and we may have to go along

July the 18  
latest dispatch

We are all well I had no chance to send this till this morning and I must close as the mail is waiting on me

good by write often yours in haste  
JF Montgomery