On board of the transport
United States Dec. 22nd 1864,

Dear Mother

Yesterday mornining I in company with about two hundred others received "heavy marching orders" Canteens and haversacks were swung over our ~~shoulders~~ shoulders, Knapsacks were packed and strapped ~~[illegible]~~ upon our backs — The rolls were called and one days rations were dealt out to the men which consisted of soft Bread and salt Junck, And then at about ten, O'clock, we were marched on board of the Jhon Romer. The steam was soon let on and then off we started for the seat of war

At the time the snow was falling thick and fast— The wind was blowing strong from the north west— The waves rolled high and every thing combined to make it one of the most dreary days of winter" after a few hours sail we arrived in New York harbor and was transfered to the transport "United States" We were over generous on the middle deck— We had been on board but a short time before a boat came loaded with prisoners— These had been arrested for bounty jumping, desertion, and for remaining at home over their furlough" There was about four hundred of them— and a rougher set of human beings are seldom ever seen together"

~~Amo~~ Among these prisoners are, corporals, orderly sergeants — and also one Lieutenant. They were most all poorly clad and very dirty — As they marched on board they looked as though they had lost all of their friends — and were not like to gain any more. — These men were all sent to the lower deck where they will not be very likely to get away — I should hate to be kept in confinement as close as they are — Soon the prisoners were taking care of a boat came with two & three hundred more recruits which were placed on board — by this ~~time~~ time it was dark — The vessell was soon lighted up and coffee was made was made for the men — The ~~fa~~ evening soon passed away — The men

Spread their blankets
and layed down to take
their rest = but little did
they sleep for it was rather
cold and most of them was
not used to sleeping on so
hard a bed, — in the part of
the vessell that I was in the men
were packed as close as
they could lay comfortable
This morning the sun rose
bright and clear — Scarcely a cloud
could be seen in the fer
mament above — The wind
blows strong and the sea
runs high — The men have
received their rations of
salt = junck — Hard tack and
coffee — they are all in good
Spirits — Some are singing
some are dancing — Others
are playing the violin, banjo,
or tamboene, While others

Early the next morning we again commenced our journey for City Point — we arrived here about one Oclock P. M. yesterday — and I can assure you every man was glad to breath the pure free air once more — The Squad of men from hart Island were marched from the boat up in front of Provost Marshall Gen Patrick's office where our names were ~~co~~ called off — We were then march arrounded in front of a large building where we received our rations of Bean Soup — Salt pork and hard tack — After ~~a while~~ this we were again marched in front of the office and the names of the substitutes were called out and then a guard of cavalry men come up and surrounded them and took them off to some place I know not where — Among the guards were — Thos Spencer ~~and~~ and David Bostwick but I did not have an opportunity to speak with them — I in company

2 me/11

amuse themselves by smoke-
ing their brier root or Meshaum
pipes a few may be seen
reading while others busy them-
selves by nibbing at a peice of
salt-junck or hard tack—
They have just load-
ed on board six or seven
hundred more troops—we
have on board about four-
teen hundred troops—
They have put on steam
and ~~we~~ we are now under
full head-way before I
close my letter will try and
tell you of the rest of the
voyage "City Point Dec 25th 1864"

Dear Mother,

"As I have stated before
when the ship started from New

York Habor all the men seemed to be in good spirits and enjoying themselves first rate but in a few hours the scene began to change. The men began lope down upon our ~~[illegible]~~ knapsack — which was ~~[illegible]~~ evidence that some were growing sick. One after another commenced ~~a~~ spuring and before midnight most all had there turn at being sea sick. I never can forget the sceine ~~that transpired~~ on board the vessell at midnight yet it would be impossible for me to discribe it so you would have an idea of the suffering the men had to pass through. — Only think, over fourteen hundred men crowded on board of a ~~vessell so~~ vessell so thick that they cannot lay down without lying on top of each

other, at the same time the
sea rolling high— The ship
rocking to and fro on the angry
angery billows in such a manner
that it a man can hardly stand
upon his feet— The men spue-
ing over each other and over the
decks making it the most filthy
place that man was ever compelled to
live in— But after a while the
storm died away and the men
got over their sickness— and they
all look a little more comfort-
able during the rest of the voyage.

We arrived at Fortress Monroe
about two o'clock on Friday after-
noon. We landed part of the men
at this place— and then pro-
ceeded a few miles up the James
river where we cast anchor—

We dare not run up the river
in the night— for fear the reb-
els might throw a few shells at
us.

with the rest of the volunteers
were placed in the convalescent
camp where we will have to remain
till we are sent to our different
regiments. There is about two
thousand of us in camp and
the most of us will probably
be sent to the front to-
morrow. It is very warm
and pleasant here. There is
not any snow here. It is
very dusty here under foot.
I have formed a few
here that I got acquainted
with while in hospital Delaware
There is a few here that
have been here for nearly
two months. It appears that
they have lost their papers
and cannot send them to the
front until they find them.

but I do not think I shall remain here more than a day or two at the least —

We can now ~~[illegible]~~ and then hear the booming of the cannon off towards the front — We hear ~~[illegible]~~ that the union armies have had some great victories lately — I heard ~~[illegible]~~ last night that Sherman had captured Savannah with seventeen thousand prisoners but cannot say how true it is — I have not much more to write ~~at~~ at peresent so I will close — When you write I wish you send me some post-age stamps for I am entirely out — I want you to write as soon as you receive this — What let ters come to Hart Island for me will be sent to

you — You will throw them in my trunk and leave them untile ordered different

I do not know as you can make out to read this letter for it with a lead pencil and in great haste at that — Give my respects to all inquiring friends

Your Son

Geo. D. Barringer

11th N.Y. Battery Leight Art.

Washington

D.C.