

On board of the transport  
United States Dec 22<sup>ed</sup> 1864

Dear Mother

Yesterday morning I in company with about two hundred others received "heavy marching orders"

Canteens and haversacks were swung over our ~~sholders~~ shoulders, Knapsacks were packed and strapped ~~up~~ 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 oclock 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 everything combined to make it one of the most dreary days of winter,, after a few hours ride we arrived in New York harbor and was transfered to the transport "United States,," We ~~were~~ were quartered 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, deserting, and for remaining at home over their fourloughs,, There was about four hundred of them and a ~~ruffe~~ rougher set of human beings are seldom ever seen together,, ~~And~~ 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 \_\_\_\_ As 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 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 ~~we were~~ 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 firmament above \_\_\_\_ The wind blows strong and the sun 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, on tamboene,, While others

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amuse themselves by smoking their brier root or Mashanin pipes a few may be reading while others buisy themselves by nibbling at a peice of salt-Junck or hard tack \_\_\_\_

They have Just loaded on board six or seven hundred more troops \_\_\_\_ we have on board about fourteen hundred troops \_\_\_\_