

Regts. 2nd Div., 15th A. C. Army of the Tennessee. Gledsboro, N. C. Mar. 27th 1865

Dear Mother: Your most welcome letter bearing date of Feb. 11th. was received yesterday by the first mail to arrive at this point, well, we have ^{at} last arrived, after marching some 470 miles through hostile country - at a permanent base, with the likelihood of remaining several weeks. We have the promise of General Sherman, of a rest, and has just issued a congratulatory order to his brave command on the successful issue of the campaign "whipping the enemy on his chosen ground and compelling him leaving all of his dead and wounded in our possession." Plenty of food and clothing are promised the brave boys and the latter article they are in need of. Many of them during the latter end of the campaign rivalled the heroes of the Revolution in "marching over frozen ground with bare and bleeding feet." I have no doubt but blood was often left to mark the spot trod upon for at the end of the campaign over a third were shoeless and some even breechesless. When the 2nd Division was passing through Gledsboro, on review, Gen. Logan called one of Hovey's staff officers over, promising to show him a sight perhaps he had not seen. Pointing to the passing column he asked the officer to note that very many of the men in addition to being barefooted, were marching with nothing to cover their legs but old drawers, their pants having long since cast aside as being unwareable. Notwithstanding these and other privations every man was as cheerful as if he was home surrounded by every comfort he could wish. We fed well during the campaign. Turkey, for instance was seldom cooked, though plentiful, to much trouble to prepare. Nothing less than good old ham would answer in the meat line. Sweet potatoes were plentiful up to this point. Hot biscuits, or corn meal 'pones' was the usual bread on the table. Hard tack was issued only in small quantities.. On one or two occasions the people in the ranks were hard up, but never suffered greatly. (He thanks his mother for her good advice, comments on some matters of personal family interest, and asks for lots of news from home.)

Yours truly, (Signed) ^{C.P.} D. K. Rees

Letter addressed to: Elizabeth S. Rees.