as they think that the Yankees have a force equally as large as their own they run so fast that you can hardly see their heels through the dust. As it was I did not feel sorry at the turn affairs had taken since undoubtedly a great many lives were saved through it. On the second day after our arrival here the land expedition arrived here under command of General Foster. After staying here about 7 days we were ordered to go back to Newbern in company with the 17, 24 and 44th, the 175th & 19th Penn, being retained as garrison at Washington. The night before we left 5 men of our Company, including me, were sent out on picket across the River about 4 miles from the town. It was a very stormy and exceedingly dark night and as we started from the city at 5 o'clock it was almost dark before we got to our station. I will not deny to tell you that I felt

Apr. 25th 1863

Dear Sir,

Having only just got back from our late expedition, you must excuse my not having written to you before. I presume you know that we were going to little Washington. At least, I think I have told you so in my last letter. Well we started from Camp Rogers on Friday with the intention to march to Washington but we were pleasantly mistaken in our suppositions, for when we arrived at Newbern we went on board of a U.S. Transport which was going to take us there. You must know that the distance from Newbern to Washington is 30 miles, and the roads are very muddy therefore we were not at all sorry to go by water. We were previously aware that the Rebel batteries which blockaded the San
Ebanks were deserted. I suppose the Rebels had received warning that General Foster had left Washington and in consequence were afraid that he would bag them. At the same time that we started by water another expedition went by land comprising Spinetas and Needles Brigades. We arrived at little Washington on Saturday at 12 o'clock (distance 110 miles). I will send you a sketch of the batteries in this letter. Washington is about the prettiest little place that I have seen yet, that is in N. Carolina. It is very strongly fortified and I do not think that the Rebels can take it with a force less than 50,000 men. When we arrived each Company of our Regiment took up a position in the trenches around the city. My Company took possession of a little Battery on the right of the town having a Bomb proof casemate in the centre for us to get in in ease the Rebels should take a fancy to bombard the city. The day before we arrived here the Rebel's forces were within sight of the town, and in fact had been for some time, bombarding it almost incessantly. As it was very dangerous that for the citizens to live in their houses while the bombardment was going on, they went to work and built, or rather digged a large hole in the ground and covered it with beams and bags of sand forming as it were a shell proof retreat to go into while the enemy was shelling the place. A great many of the houses were literally muddled with shot and some were blown up all together. The night before we arrived at Washington the Rebels retreated as fast as they could from their positions around the city so that, when we came, they were all gone and we could sit down and write Yankee doodle. I think from all I have seen, that the Rebels are not worth a Tinker's commission from the fact that, as soon
He is now in the Navy. I found out his address in a directory and wrote to him and I have not a letter and a package containing a pretty 6 inch single barrel Rifle pistol and two hundred cartridges with the injunction to make good use of it in the cause and defense of the union.

I must now come to a close and I do not well know what else to write. Give my respects to all the folks especially to Mrs. Sears and the family. Ride as soon as you can!! So good bye for the present. I remain your truly,

Fred.

Your mail address your letters as usual to F. W. Hall, Co. A, 43 Regt. Newcomer, S.C.

rather skittish just then for the Rebel pickets were said to be almost within gun shot of my post and the woods were full of Bushwhackers. I think, if I recalled right, that it was about 12 o’clock when I was startled from my meditations by a slight noise which seemed to come from the woods in front of me. I was wide awake in an instant and cocking my two companions if there are always three men on a post I got my rifle to bear on the place from which the noise seemed to proceed. Presently I observed a dark form peering from behind the stump of a tree at me and I thought it was best to get on my knees because then I could take a better aim. For a second or two my courage refused utterance, then with a mighty effort I called out in a clear voice: Hall!! Who goes there?
but getting no answer I called out again. Getting still no answer I quickly cocked my piece, took sight and fired. Before the smoke of the powder had cleared away I had time to reload I heard the report of two guns close to me and I could hear the whirring of the bullets close to my face, one of them passing through my cap and burrow itself in a tree behind me. By this time my two companions were thoroughly awake and we resolved to advance and deploy an all sides of the palace where we thought the enemy was stationed so as to attack him on three sides at one time. No sooner had we left our hiding place when we saw two guerrillas on horseback passing almost from under our noses in full gallop discharging their pistols almost into our faces, vanishing in the surrounding gloom. As we thought it was best to give the alarm after what we had seen we fired three distinct shots and, to our great relief the lieutenant at the head of the main guard approached our station. Then we explained the matter to him he told us, that if we were to see the least suspicion of things we were to fire at it without waiting to challenge. But to make a short story out of a long one we did not get another opportunity to try our skill in target shooting, as we were not again disturbed that night.

At 4 o'clock in the morning we were relieved from picket by the 19th Penn. and we received orders to join our regt. on board the transport "Long Island" to go to Newbern. We arrived back to Camp at 12 o'clock that night, all tired out as you may suppose. Everything is quiet at present at Newbern and I do not think that we shall have another chance to fight the Yanks while we are out here. You remember Mr. H. Bennett? He was made of the largest Messenag bird at Hongkong.
Apr. 25th. 1863.

Dear Sir!

Having only just got back from our late expedition you must excuse my not having written to you before. I presume you know that we were going to little Washington. At least I think I have told you so in my last letter. Well we started from Camp Rogers on Friday with the intention to march to Washington but we were pleasantly mistaken in our surmise, for when we arrived at Newbern we went on board of a U S Transport which was going to take us there. You must know that the distance from Newbern to Washington is 50 miles, and the roads are very muddy therefore we were not at all sorry to go by water. We were previously aware that the Rebel batteries which blockaded the Tar [over page] were deserted. I suppose the Rebels had received warning that General Foster had left Washington and in consequence were afraid that he would bag them. At the same time that we started by water another expedition went by land comprising Spinolas and Wessels Brigades. We arrived at little Washington on Saturday at 12 o'clock [distance 110 miles]. I will send you a sketch of the batteries in this letter. Washington is about the prettiest little place that I have seen yet, that is, in N. Carolina. It is very strongly fortified and I do not think that the Rebels can take it with a force less than 50,000 men. When we arrived each Company of our Regiment took up a position in the trenches around the city. My Company took possession of a little Battery on the right of the town having a Bomb proof casemate in the centre for us to get in, in case the Rebels should take a fancy to bombard [next page] the city. The day before we arrived here the Rebel forces were within sight of the town, and in fact had been for some time, bombarding it almost incessantly. As it was very dangerous that for the citizen to live in their houses while the bombardment was going on, they went to work and built, or rather dug a large hole in the ground and covered it with beams and bags of sand forming as it were a shellproof retreat to go into while the enemy was shelling the place. A great many of the houses were literary riddled with shot and some were blown up altogether. The night before we arrived at Washington the Rebels retreated as they could from their positions around the city, so that, when we came, they were all gone and we could sit down and whistle Yankee doodle. I think, from all I have seen, that the Rebs are not worth a Tinkers commission from the fact, that, as soon [over page] as they think that the Yankees have a force equally as large as their own they run so fast that you can hardly see their heels through the dust. As it was I did not feel sorry at the turn affairs had taken since undoubtedly a good many lives were saved through it. On the second day after our arrival here the land expedition arrived here under command of General Foster. After staying here about 7 days we were ordered to go back to Newbern in company with the 17, 24 and 44th; the 175 & 79th Penn. being
retained to garrison Washington. The night before we left 5 men of our Company, including me, were sent out on picket across the River about 4 miles from the town. It was a very stormy and exceeding dark night and as we started from the city at 5 oclock, it was almost dark before we got to our station. I will not deny to tell own to you that I felt [next page] rather skittish just then for the Rebel pickets were said to be almost within gun shot of my post and the woods were full of Bushwhakers. I think, If I recollect right, that it was about 12 oclock when I was startled from my meditations by a slight noise which seemed to come from the woods in front of me. I was wide awake in an instant and awaking my two companions {there are always three men of a post} got my rifle to bear on the place from which the noise seemed to proceed. Presently I observed a dark form peering from behind the stump of a tree at me and I thought it was best to get on my knees because then I could take a better aim. For a second or two my tongue refused utterance then with a mighty effort I called out in a clear voice: Halt !! Who goes there? [over page] but getting no answer I called out again. Getting still no answer I quickly cocked my piece, took sight and fired. Before the smoke of the powder had cleared away, or I had time to reload I heard the report of two guns close to me and I could hear the whizzing of the bullets close to my face, one of them passing through my cap and burying itself in a tree behind me. By this time my two companions were thoroughly awake and we resolved to advance and deploy on all sides of the place where we thought the enemy was stationed so as to attack him on three sides at one time. No sooner had we left our hiding place when we saw two guerillas on horseback, passing almost from under our noses in full gallop discharging their pistols almost into our faces, vanishing in the surrounding gloom. As we thought it was best to give the alarm after what we had seen we fired three [next page] distinct shots, and, to our great relief the lieutenant at the head of the mainguard approached our station. When we explained the matter to him he told us, that if we were to see the least suspicious thing, we were to fire at it without waiting to challenge. But, to make a short story out of a long one we did not get another opportunity to try our skill in target shooting, as we were not again disturbed that night.

At 4 oclock in the morning we were relieved from picket by the 79th Penn. and we received orders to join our Regt on board the Transport “Long Island,, to go to Newbern. We arrived back to Camp at 12 oclock that night all tired out as you may suppose. Everything is quiet at present at Newbern and I do not think that we shall have another chance to fight the Rebs while we are out here. You remember Mr H. Lewett? He was mate of the barque or brig Messenger bird at Hong kong. [over page] He is now in the Navy. I rec a letter and a package containing a pretty 6 inch, single barrel Rifle pistol and two hundred cartridges with the injunction to make good use of it in the cause and defence of the union.
I must now come to a close as I do not well know what else to write. Give my respects to all the folks especially to Mrs Sears and the family. Write as soon as you can!! So good bye for the present.

I remain your truly
Fred.

P.S. You may address your letters as usual to T. H. Hall, Co A 43 Regt. Newbern, N.C.