

U.S. Steamer Daylight
Off Newport News Aug 8/61

My Dear Wife,

Since my last letter although written but yesterday, some warlike events enable me to note them briefly.

From information obtained from a Yankee who deserted from the rebels, we learned that last night (Wednesday) 7,000 of the enemy were to march on Hampton, burn it and in the faintest attack the main body were to suddenly attack the News.

But in consequence of the revelation of the plot, they cut the telegraph wires connecting this and Ft Monroe, burnt Hampton, but thought it imprudent probably to come to Newport News.

Capt Lockwood was called to consult with Gen Phelps and officers. We took our position half musket shot

from the show leading to the acc
unprotected part of the camp, I
put a charge of grape on top
of ball, layed on arrows ready
for the fray. They come not.

How close upon the eve
of being made heroes, cowards ma
or corpses! But so far as
your dear husband is con-
cerned, he has a decided pre-
dilection for the former trans-
formation. Fate has de-
creed that neither was our
immediate lot.

I have not had any oppre-
hension of an attack until
last night, and not much
then. Some few reinforce-
ments have arrived today,
and the fortifications are being
strengthened in anticipation of
an attack to night; so I will leave
a space for noting the events
of the night, should I ^{not} be put out
of writing condition, of which
I have no fears.

I must now tell you that
our mails did not return by
the U.S. Warship, on which

The account we are triply indebted to
up, Delay Officer Pendergraft. This account
of our dating disposition will come out
by through the Herald some of these
of. ~~kind~~ days.

We have no news yet of our
boards machinery or of what our destina-
tion will be, but I suspect we are
doing as much and are ready to do
more as much as any other Gun Boat, where
others are.

Write when you have leisure
from time to time, and send three or
two letters a week; for I can not
expect you to devote too much of
your time to writing to me, but
then after all it is a real treat
to get letters from one, so dear
wife and sweetheart.

The children can write all
of about little Sizzie, a theme which
will please me more than any
to other, provided Ma comes in for
out a liberal share.

I have not yet given up
my intentions to visit you,
but it would not do to ask
how as the plot thickens.

I did not have my hospital cot swung on deck last night for it would have been in the way in case of action, but it is so hot in the cabin that I shall have it swung if it dont cool off fast; for I have not slept a wink today.

I wish you to give my best wishes to all our folks, and not to forget to give me theirs to me when you write.

I now kiss you all, with innumerable loves all round.

Your affectionate husband
A. Heath

Friday morning Aug 9th

The only news I have is that the Rebels are incamped two miles from Newmpton in strong force, and that they fired all the houses but only part of them were burned. The frigate Savannah came up last night, and this morning a park of light artillery, so that an attack will probably not be made. I will wait to see if I get letters, so that I can acknowledge their receipt in a few words.