

[Different handwriting at top]
No. 220. Mailed at Port Royal. Feb 24
Recd Feby 29

[Letter]
Baldwin, Florida
February 15, 1864.

Dear Mother

Five companies of our regiment arrived at this place day before yesterday the 13th, Well tired out. This station is the junction of four railroads, and is quite an important place to hold. The main body of our Army have advanced some 60 or 80 miles in the interior of the State. We are 30 miles. Have captured large quantities of store— and immense quantities [quantities] of cotton—one full battery rifled guns, and one or two stray guns.

There are three or four officers in my "shanty" talking and fooling, so that it is rather hard to write. Tis hard enough any way—You would laugh I think if you could see me just now. The "shanty" spoken of consists of four timbers about 5 feet high with rails across the top shelter tents hanging at each side and ends, and rubber blankets. For a floor are boards torne [torn] from fence. [We] have to build floor from ground two feet to keep out of the wet. The men have merely their shelters.. [sic]

This is a misserable [miserable] country all swamp.

We are intrenching [entrenching] ourselves—so as to hold this junction. There are bands of the enemy all over the State who will attack us—if there is the least idea of success. Our telegraph wire was cut by some of these rascals night before last between this post and Jacksonville.

You will recollect I told you in letter written after we landed about my company and what we did. Well the horse I captured Genl. Seymore [Seymour] sent for the next morning—and of course I had to give him up. It was a very good horse—belonged to Rebel Cavalry—although [although] the man who rode him was not armed at the time. Was sorry for I wished to present the horse to Col. Hallowell.

Men captured are a greater part of them Florida men. [They] belong in state [and] they are glad to take the oath and go to their homes, but I would not trust them as good Union Men out of my sight. Thats as much confidence as I have in them.

Our Army have had several skirmishes, but no fight as yet. Genl. S. himself with staff returned last night. Said they had to stop on account of short supply of provisions. The country is poor. We are dependant upon our own Commissary for food.

The Whites who are living here still are wretchedly poor—they are Women and children—hardly enough clothing to cover their backs—and food I can not tell you what they live on. It is a pitiful sight. I assure you.

No mail yet has come to us. I console myself in this way when we do get a mail it will be a rich one. Pleas [Please] give love to all. I hope soon to hear from you. Shall write as often as possible.

Affc son
"Baby Lieut"
Charlie

Transcribed by Nicole J. Milano, University of Florida, 2008.