

Camp Convalescence, Oct. 13th, [1862]

Dear Father

I am still here and don't know when I will leave. They say we will leave tomorrow but they have been saying that for the last week. It seems there was nothing of that big story about the bushwhackers I wrote to you about in my last letter, but that we are kept waiting for a train of wagons that we are to go with. The wagons are here now but there are some repairs to be made on them and I don't know how long it will take [to] fix them but I am in hopes to get off tomorrow or next day. I am getting pretty tired of this place. It is a mean nasty place. It has been raining for the last three days and everything is in a perfect stop and it is getting pretty cool here too. The sun is shining a little but it still looks cloudy. I am in hopes it will clear off now and we will have a good time marching. There is [are] about 300 men going when we do leave here. There was a report[rife about here that the Florida Regts. [Regiments] were ordered back but I have just come from town and found out it is all a hoax. One can hear more news in camps than a little. I cannot tell for certain when I will try and write after I am on the march for I cannot be certain that I am going to [leave?] until I am on the march.

Your Son

C.O. Bailey [Cosmo O. Bailey]

Oct. 15th, 1862

Dear Father

I am still here. It is now early in the morning and Mr. Roberts starts back to Gainesville in a few minutes. I received Ma's letter the day before yesterday. I would have written yesterday but I did not know that Mr. Roberts was going to leave this morning. I saw a Lieut [lieutenant?] from the 7th regt [regiment]; he [~~left?~~] had it a week the day he got here, which was day before yesterday. He says that some of the men that went with Cap[t]. Dudley [Phillip B.H. Dudley, Company C, 7th Florida] got to the Regt. [Regiment] the same day he left, but he did not see Cap[t]. Dudley. He says also that the men are dying awfully, that they were marched 36 hours and only rested one hour during time to get into the fight at Richmond and then did not get there in time. The Regt [Regiment] [musters?] 450 strong. I don't know when we will leave this place but they still say we will leave tomorrow. I heard last night that we would be commanded by a Col. [colonel]. I do not know what his name is. I will try and let you know when I write again. I hear reports of a great battle being fought in Kentucky between Bragg [Confederate General Braxton Bragg] & Buell [Union Major General Don Carlos Buell], and that we captured 25,000 prisoners. I hope it will prove true. I supposed we will leave here before long, but I cannot say when. You must excuse this being badly written for it is written on my knee and in a hurry at that.

Your Affectionate Son

C.O. Bailey [Cosmo O. Bailey]

Item 49852. Transcribed by Nicole Milano, University of Florida, 2008.

