

Camp Jackson April 28th 61

Dear Mother

I recieved your kind letter of the 27th yesterday through Col. Harrison. I should have written Sooner but I have been sick ever Since I came here. I kept on my feet till thursday at dinner time. I was made Officer of the day on Wednesday and the duties over a camp of seven thousand men like this are extremely arduous. I never laid down or hardly sat down for twenty seven hours. That completed what the intolerable food commenced and I was laid up with a high fever, aches in my head back and legs, but I have got through now pretty well owing to the kind attentions of the camp Surgeon Dr Cantwell.

I think that I shall have no  
(portion missing)

was perfectly abominable: and soon such as it was. We could not get it regularly. Some times having breakfast at four o'clock and sometimes at noon: the other meals in the same proportions.

On Wednesday the men rose up en masse and swore that they would level the whole commissary department to the ground if there was not a change made. So on thursday there was a committee appointed by the legislature to examine into the matter. They reported that they found everything in an extremely bad condition that the meat was maggotty etc. etc. So the government has taken away the contract form Buttles & Comstock and given it others. Whether they will do any better is hard to say, for seems to one, that all they care for here is to make money out of us.

They could afford to give us good clean food for sixty cents a day which is the price they get.

1 o'clock. We have just got marching orders to Camp Dennison at Loveland we start a 2 o'clock in the morning with fifteen companies making twelve hundred men.

It is intended for a drill camp and as fast as the regiments are equipped and drilled the sent off into service.

We will be formed into regular messes there. The Capt, Lieut-Smith and myself will form one, and we concluded to get a cook, one that will keep our marquee in good order and attend to things generally. It is impossible for us to do it for we are obliged by regulations to drill the men eight hours a day.

So if you have anything to contribute to our mess chest it will be thankfully recieved.

There will be plenty of opportunities to send anything over to us. We will very probably be there some three of four weeks.

We have just been employed in inspecting a lot of provisions sent to the Capt by his wife and they have passed the inspection as they have passed out of sight in double quick time. You must excuse this seemingly very careless letter as there is a perfect uproar here. You can rest assured Mother that I will never will go back to Dayton without I can do so with perfect honor. I must close this to get my traps packed for the morning.

Remember me to all

Your affectionate son  
Robt Patterson

Mrs J. Patterson      Dayton O