

the time comes for action

You have a view of our camp ground upon the first page of this sheet I have marked the position of our regiment with an index over it and pointing towards it. The bridge you see leads over to the fortress which is not ~~seen~~ in the view. This point is low and sandy it being perhaps fifteen or twenty feet higher than high tide you see over an area of about 1 mile in length and perhaps 1/2 mile in width back of this on the right & also upon the left is a low swamp for some distance then we come upon plantations across this swamp the rebels are now encamped it is said that they are about forty thousand strong. I do not know how many troops we have but I suppose here and at New Port News some 60,000 miles from here we have some 20,000 all together. I understand that there were 11 regiments landed here this morning and sent to New Port News it is said that the Bucktails are amongst them.

The 1st Michigan Regt. came in yesterday and encamped upon our right I have marked their camp with a * This marked with a P is a Delaware Regt & the one with a C is a Cavalry Regt. This was lithographed some time ago when an Indiana Regt occupied our position you will see that they were in the small wedge tent we have the large Sibley tents. The house marked by a S is one now used for the Brigade or general hospital it belonged to one Judge Clarkson who died there and when the Union troops took possession here his

house keeper who was a rabid secessionist went off in high dudgeon & left the premises for our use.

It is raining this evening. We have no floors to our tents here only the sand. The Surgeon told me this evening that he was going to get boards for a floor in the Hospital tent we have now some five or six patients in here with no floor. My bed is upon the sand. We have cots for the sick. The weather is quite warm comfortable without a fire until this evening, it being damp a fire was very acceptable. We have cool mornings from 3 A.M. until about 7 A.M., when it begins to get warm.

Our boys went down to the bay some here below the camp yesterday at low tide and got about a bushel of Oysters. they are quite plentiful here, this was previous to this was quite a noted watering place and summer resort for sea bathing &c. I should judge it to have been a very pleasant place. Hampden lies back of the picture I should judge about where the P is placed over the picture I have learned this evening while writing this that they do not send letters from here now, but I shall however put this in the office and let them mail it when they get ready I wish you to write me what the date of its receipt is. I suppose if they are detained at all they will be detained until after we have this expected battle or the present plans are changed. If you do not get letters regular I want you to write as you can with some direct and I will get them regular. I shall write once or twice a week and you will get them some time. Be particular to put P.V. in all your letters now so that they will be sent.