

Head Quarters Co. H 11th Maine Volunteers
Yorktown Virginia Sep. 10th

Dear Brother

I have a few spare moments this afternoon, and will write you a few lines, to keep you posted as to our movements. We were thrown in to a state of great alarm yesterday, by being ordered in the fort in great haste. We were told that the enemy had taken Williamsburgh and were coming this way.

The guns were all manned and every preparation made to meet the advancing foe when Scouts being sent out there was no enemy to be seen. There are all sorts of stories afloat to about it. It seems that the 5th Regular Cavalry who were stationed at Williamsburgh, allowed themselves to be surprised and the most of fled disgracefully to this place. The Quartermaster, so report says, rallied 18 men and drove out the enemy who proved to be only a Squad of Guerrillas. It seems to have been a disgraceful scare. They reported a strong force marching for us, when they had seen no one scarcely. Some of them run their horses to death.

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MMN #31853

Date: September 10, 1862
Description: Luther Lawrence to brother Frank

150 Recruits arrived yesterday in the midst of the alarm and were immediately set to work. There have been more assigned to our Company yet, I think there will be none this time. The Col. tried to get a 2nd Lt. and 2 Non. Commissioned officers for 26 men but the Capt. wouldnt agree to it and they were put in Co. 16. There were any amount of Lts. Serjts and Corporals, every other one expects an office. They are a fine set of fellows, worth some \$200.00 more than the rest of us, and think they are entitled to all the offices. They dont interfere with me, so far as I know. My health is not very good, I have got the bowell complaint, dont eat one meal a day, am losing flesh in consequence. I have written the Dr. about it and expect him to send me some medicine that will help me. I feel quite well to day the best I have for some time. I am doctoring myself now. There is no alarm felt here to day, we have gone back to our old Camp and everything is quiet. I am acting as 1st Lt. which means with me doing nothing, for I am not fit to do anything yet. I shall expect some chicken fixings and a valise soon. I am to tired to write any more and must close. Write often

Yours truly Luther Lawrence

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