



Contributed to Maine Memory Network by Maine Historical Society
(Coll. S-166, Misc. Box 6/5)
MMN #35858

Date: May 4, 1862

Description: Marshall Phillips on evacuation of Yorktown

Shippoint, May 4

Sunday

Dear Wife I mailed a letter to you
morning

last Thursday ^ I received a letter
Thursday night from you was very
glad to here that you and your family
was well we received back mail
to day I received three letters from you
two directed to me one in Beniahers
letter we went in to camp yesterday on
the shore the knews of the [crossed out]
of evacuation of york town arived
at our headquarters early this morni

ng
the firing of cannon at that place kept
us awake amost all night we expected
the battle to commence in earnest this
morning and that we should be orderd on
but son after daylight we received a disp
atch

of the evacuation by night and that
their retreat was followed up by our
artilery Cavelry and infantry [crossed out]
that was stationed in the vicinity

o
we was orderd on board the b^ats and
as near as we can learn we are going
to york town and probly on towards

Richmond I shal not finish until
we land some where my health is
good March 5 we have run up
to york town this morning 9 oclock
we are ancherd about 20 rods
from the shore of yorktown it
is the handsomiest place that
I have seen in Virginia excepti
ng

Ft. Monroe the banks form a
bold frunt standing nearly
perpindickuler about sixty ft.
above the water and then makes
back on a level there are fts and
heavy guns mounted all along
on the top of this bank which
the Rebels left in their hasty
retreat it looks to be by far the
strongest fortified posision

that I have ever seen of the
rebels works we are not allowed
to go ashore to look around
and examine them there is a
number of very fine bilding
here and new store houses
that the Rebels had built all
left in good condition they
had no time to distroy property
as they did at Manassas other
places our army was to close
upon them you will get the
official account of the number
of prisners and stors taken
before the solgers will here
we are not allowed to get any
thing to be depended upon
untill an official dispatc
is sent to Washington
the talk is that we have taken
nine thousand prisners the talk
is that we shal go up this river
to west point about forty miles
from here where the rebels hold
a position I think it is likely
that we shal go up this way
to Richmond it is thirty
miles from west point to
Richmond by railroad probly
we shall have to march from
west point I dont believe
the Rebels will ever make
a stand and fight a battle any
where in Virginia when they
find the Potomac army are
surrounding them M. S. Phillips

that I have ever seen of the
rebels works we are not allowed
to go ashore to look around
and examine them there is a
number of very fine bilding
here and new store houses
that the Rebels had built all
left in good condition they
had no time to distroy property
and
as they did at Manassas ^ other
places our army was to close
upon them you will get the
official account of the number
of prisners and and stors taken
before the solgers will here
we are not allowed to get any
thing to the depended upon
untill an official dispatc
is sent to Washington
The talk is that we have taken
nine thousand prisners the talk
is that we shal go up this river
to west point about forty miles
from here where the rebels hold
a position I think it is likely
that we shal go up this way
to Richmond it is thirty
miles from west point to
Richmond by railroad probly
we shall have to march from
west point I dont believe
the Rebels will ever make
a stand and fight a battle any
where in Virginia when they
find the Potomac army are
surrounding them M. S. Phillips