

Aug. 9, 1863  
No. 128  
Mrs. Andrew Upson  
Plantsville, Conn.

*(Yellow envelope postmarked Alexandria V. Aug 10, 1863 with three-cent stamp. Letter is on one large sheet of unlined stationery folded in half and written on four sides in ink.)*

Camp Distribution –  
Aug. 9<sup>th</sup>, 1863

My Dear Wife,

It is 20 minutes past 9 P.M. A very hot Sunday has passed – I have spent it mostly in the tent – Aside from some duties in the morning & dress parade this evening my time has been my own, & stretched upon the floor I have read St. Paul, Matts, xc – thought of you at church in New England – Meditated upon various subjects & now sit down to jot you a letter – You probably notice that my letters are mostly about myself – This perhaps is a habit in to which I have fallen from supposing that you would be pleased to know whatever befalls good or bad - If it is not a pleasing way to fill these missives, you must say so & I will talk about somebody else or about things in general – At last writing I had recd. orders to report to Capt. Davis for duty – Well he first commanded me to turn in all the arms & equipment belonging to my company – That done the next order was to take command of another just organized out of Southern & Western troops – Men who were in Dis. Camp. belonging to Burnside's, Rosecrans & Grants armies – He also ordered me (**Pg. 2**) to report immediately to Capt. Marston – He has command of all the companies that have been organized here – They are employed to do guard duty about the camps & for general service of that kind – For instance an order has just come to send a Sergt. & 10 men to-morrow morning as an escort of troops going to Fortress Monroe – I reported to Capt. Marston as directed – It was then about 6 o'clock – He informed me that I should be expected on Dress Parade with my company that evening – This seemed rather mortifying, but there was no recourse but to obey – Lieut. Smith felt rather jolly at my fate & congratulated himself over escaping – Next morning he got an order to act as adjutant of the same & then the laugh came from the other side of his mouth while the sport was mine – We had been flattering ourselves over going to the regt. The five companies that were at Fort Ethan Allen have been broken up & most of the men were sent forward to the front, yesterday & today – I felt like packing up & falling in with the boys of the 12<sup>th</sup> corps - They went yesterday – None of the prisoners are yet distributed – Smith & I also have to attend at the eating barracks when the men from Dis. Camp go over – Our duty then is to (**Pg. 3**) keep order xc – The number in Dis. Camp varies everyday – On the 5<sup>th</sup> it was nearly 1600 – today about 800 – Tomorrow it may be 500 or a thousand – You see then how I am placed as to duty at present – Don't know as I shall get away from for a long while – The only thing that prevents me from immediate application to be sent forward is the fact that I do not know what my standing is – Ross promised to get me away & I really thought he would – Perhaps he is working but I have

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no knowledge of it – Sometimes I think it is best to set sight down & just let fate run – if fortune keeps me here very well – if I am ordered away very well – Folks may mind their business & I will attend to mine – We have very good quarters – A large hospital tent & two wall tents directly in the rear – A Dr. & his family left them Thursday & we got permission to come right in – But McKelvey would not give us possession - We are likely to be routed out any time – He has already sent two others here & for aught we know will put in a dozen more – Were you here I could get these chaps away & we could live like house keepers – Several officers have their families along – But aside from the domestic comfort it is a poor place to attempt house keeping – (*Pg. 4*) Provisions are not abundant – Though you could make a little answer for various kinds – But I don't like the smell of a reputation which attaches to dwellers here & should welcome the command “forward” –

Have a very good company – Number 80 - all equipped – You have no idea of the difficulty attending the settlement of accounts in the army – I can not take time here to tell you all the vexations to which we officers of the Union Battalion have been put – But by great care & watchfulness I have been able to turn back everything drawn except a few screwdrivers & tompons [gun stoppers] You see books were not furnished us & we supposing the organization was only for a few days did not charge the men with the things they recd. In such case the officer is responsible for the whole – You can imagine what a sweet little bill would get on the pay rolls if there is not great care or great lying – An action is a mighty nice thing for some officers – It enables them to account for things as lost which otherwise they would have to pay for – I have given the men of this new company due notice that they will be charged with everything rec. – The boys that went away this morning & also yesterday hailed me in passing – They seemed to entertain kind feelings – Several called to shake hands & expressed their wishes for my welfare – On the whole I think it is much easier to get along with strangers than ones own neighbors & acquaintances – With many of these soldiers kindness & an obliging disposition tempered with firmness is a sure passport to their hearts – But how was that I got into yours? – Aye, girl, how? Wish I was near (written along bottom of page one) there now – Good night - It is very starry –

Your A.U.