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Head Quarters 4th Regt D.V.
Fairfax Station Va Aug 12th/63

My Dearest Lou

I fear I have caused you some anxiety by my long silence, but the day following my last letter I was placed upon the cars and have not had an opportunity since of writing even a line.

I hope you will pardon me the seeming neglect. I wanted to say to you that in case I should get a leave of absence, I would be glad to meet you in Delaware, and will endeavor to let you know so that if you wish you could pay a visit to Mip Mollies. However I will not dictate; as my coming home is yet uncertain. If I should come I thought it would be pleasant to meet you early and have the pleasure of taking you into Maryland with me. My

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health is very good. There are six officers absent from the Regiment on account of sickness. Some of them I think are not very sick, but I cannot find it in my heart to get home under a false pretence.

I think as badly as I wish to see you - to see everybody - I will stay my term out before I will leave otherwise than honorably.

I am beginning to expect another letter from you, I hope I am not to be disappointed.

I have just got in from picket duty having been put on as soon as I reached camp. The night was a splendid one. I enjoyed it exceedingly.

The days are awful hot. I used to think it was warm at Central X Roads but I never knew what it was to be warm, until this summer.

Next month will be much pleasanter and will be the time also, that is to close this "cruel war". I wish I had

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