

(20)

Out on picket near  
Stafford. C. H. Bad. March 11<sup>th</sup>

Dear friend Murray  
I will now try to write you a few  
lines to let you know that I am  
yet above the sod and able to eat  
my rations. It is quite pleasant  
this afternoon although it has been  
very stormy for the past three days.

Luther Harmon came here at  
noon to see me. I was very glad to see  
him for you know that you and I  
have had some good times while at  
the Select School taught by the  
Congregational Deacon that took Miss  
Perford for his wife - He has gone  
over to the next post to see Captain  
he will be back here in a short  
time - He came to Dixie to see  
his brother Martin who is sick.  
I think that he will go home with

Another. I have been on picket two  
days and have got to stay another day  
- It is very mean business (this picket  
- duty) but after all we have some fun  
It is rumored that we have got  
marching orders, so perhaps when I  
go into camp tomorrow we will have  
to pack up and paddle off to the  
strange days and perhaps to week  
in the mud hole deep - we have  
marched 2 days and have not  
seen any good road yet - If you  
want to see bad roads just come  
down here in Dixie - I have seen  
10 horses hitched to one piece of  
light Artillery and they could  
not budge it an inch - I guess  
you have seen some such roads  
in Pa. Harmon has got back and  
has gone back to where Martin is  
I have seen quite a number of the  
boys from around Volusia since  
I come into here. O. W. Jones is all

right - he does not pretend to be  
so pious as he used to be - that  
his religion was not of  
the pure stuff - but I hope you  
will not think that the soldiers  
are all demoralized for I have  
not had any hoodlums since I came  
to Dixie and I do not swear as  
much as I used to - Wm Bailey is  
not very well now, he has got a  
cough - he has been very healthy until  
late - Lieut Jenkins is quite sick  
yet - he is much better than he has  
been - I think he will be able to  
ride home in a week or two and  
if I can I shall get a furlough  
and come home with him - but  
perhaps he will try to go home alone  
I suppose you get over toward  
Sherman now and then well  
that is all right - and I hope you  
have good times and will know  
enough to stay at home where you

can do more for me I make for  
when I can't but I thought I  
was my but so here I am and I  
cannot do more - if the office  
would do their duty I would not  
send any more - but when they  
cannot do for me the Overseas  
then I must do for myself - I  
do not let their home and friends to  
put down the people's strength  
to you who are at home to stay there  
and not to run away from it as people  
do now - I hope the Pres-  
ident will do what he can for  
the republic but at the same time  
I hope he will not do what he  
can for the people - I have not heard from  
you in several days but I hope  
that I have to receive from you - I  
wrote to you about 6 weeks ago but  
I think you have not received it yet  
but you would have answered it like  
this - Give my respects to all the  
friends and tell Mr. Street he must  
not neglect Miss Higgins this  
be my friend and  
J. S. Jones