

Camp Dahlgren Sept. 16th 1861

Dear Page

I seat myself this morning to drop you a few hasty lines in order to let you know how we are all stirring around this morning the southerners have evacuated Ship Island and burnt it up yesterday everything in our camp is in order to march at a minutes warning to the bay of St. Louis where we will be fortified for the reception of the invading foe we expect to leave here this evening or to morrow the post will be evacuated entirely we will be surrounded with rifles in a few days I will write again as soon as possible I expect we will have a little skirmish in a week or two I will bid adieu for the present

Your Brother &c

B. F. Wilkinson