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Transcriptions by Center for Digital Collections staff.
November 5th 1861
Camp Observation
Mr Walton [Alfred Walton]
Sir I take my pen in hand to write to you a few lines
to let you know that I am well hoping that thes few
lines may find you the same eaward [Edward A.
Fulton] has arived in camp and enjoying himself
very well a day or two after he came to camp the
first batalion left for picket duty along the potomac
and I have not seen him since I went away we
have to stay out fifteen days at a time I like it better
than being in camp as we do not have to drill we
live in huts made out bushes straw rails and
covered with sod they are very nice to live in
when it does not rain i was out last saturday
and it rained for twenty four hours without ceasing
the rain came through our shanty and drove us
out of it we were at the mouth of the Monocay
[Monocacy] River the Potomac raised and the
water came up in our sitting room we had to move
our furniture out side peices of burnt bridges was
coming down all day sunday we had nothing
to eat one [strike-through]one[strike-through] day
and one of the boys went over the canal and
killed a calf and we had our veal for sunday we
had no way to grind our coffee and we had to bie
it whole
you have already heard of the battle that apart of our brigade was in we were on the canal waiting to get across but before we got started the boat had sunk and i belive it saved us from getting a whiping we could not send more than fifty across at a time and the rebels could get theirs by regiment some of the boys that got back say that there was as many niggers in there army as white men we lost our general in the fight we now have general burns [William W. Burns] of ohio of the united states regulars if you have any weekly newspapers send me one now and then
No more at present but I remain yours truly A Walton [Alfred Walton]
John C Steptoe

direct your letters in care of
captain roberts
company A
Baxters fire Zouaves
TRUE TO THE UNION

Mr. Alfred Walton

No. 21 Market

Wilmington Delaware